Hafa Adai!

Saipan Tribune

CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER

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POLL RESULTS

Is your holiday spending going to increase, remain the same, or decrease this year compared to last year's?

Increase	32
Decrease	85
The same	32

Sunday, December 13, 2009

PANDEMIC ALERT STATUS

PHASE 6

As of December 11, 2009

Phase 6: The pandemic phase, is an indication that a global pandemic is underway.

For more information about the H1N1 flu, contact DPH at 236-8797, Monday to Friday, from 8am to 5pm, 234-8950 during after hours, e-mail cnmipheoc@gmail.com, or visit www.cdc.gov/h1n1flu/.

Source: CNMI Department of Public Health, World Health Organization

INSIDE

Freed Inmates

Scores of suspected Islamic militants barged into a jail in the southern Philippines on Sunday, freeing 31 inmates in a nighttime attack.

ASIA...Page 18

Miss World

Kaiane Aldorino from Gibraltar was named the new Miss World at a glittering two-hour pageant in South Africa.

LIFE & STYLE...Page 21

No changes in transitional worker rule reopened for comments. **PAGE 6**

McPhetres says power being concentrated at NMC. **PAGE 7**

China flights to resume on Dec. 18

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

Gov. Benigno R. Fitial and Delegate Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan (D-MP) separately said that charter flights from China to the CNMI will resume on Dec. 18, but not before the Commonwealth lost up to $2.6 million in projected revenue since the flights were suspended on Nov. 28, 2009.

Sablan and Delegate Madeleine Z. Bordallo (D-Gu) released separate statements over the weekend about what they have done to help restart the flights, after a Marianas Visitors Authority report on the economic impact of the suspended flights on the CNMI economy was published.

See CHINA on Page 4

HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

GRADUATION RITES

Gov. Benigno R. Fitial, Lt. Gov. Eloy S. Inos and Emmanuel College board member Eli Arago join seven of 13 graduates of the college's vocational nursing program during its Third Commencement Exercises at the Pacific Islands Club on Saturday night. ***See story on Page 5.***

Guam governor joins big crowd at Covenant's victory party

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

Camacho

Guam Gov. Felix P. Camacho joined Saturday's crowded celebration of Gov. Benigno R. Fitial's re-election. The victory party also boasted six slaughtered cows, four roasted pigs, an abun-

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Ombudsman 'accounting' begins today

Woodruff cautions those with no umbrella permits

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

Many alien workers are expected to start trooping today to the Office of the Federal Ombudsman in Puerto Rico, Saipan, for the first day of the Ombudsman's

See OMBUDSMAN on Page 4

McCain calls Garapan market project 'awful'

7 CNMI projects worth $1.35M in US House appropriation

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

Delegate Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan (D-MP) expressed disappointment that former Republican presidential candidate Sen. John McCain described as "awful" his proposed $200,000 earmark for the design and construction of the Garapan public market project.

"I worked hard to get $200,000 in seed money for Garapan Public Market into this year's appropriations and I will keep working to make sure Republicans in Washington don't kill the project," said Sablan in his latest weekly e-newsletter.

McCain took to the U.S. Senate floor on Dec. 10 and attacked Sablan's $200,000 earmark for the Garapan public market project on Saipan.

Sablan said McCain promised that "we will be hearing a lot

See MCCAIN on Page 4

Local

DPH says its proposed salary hike only for hard-to-fill posts

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
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REPORTER

Only hospital positions that are deemed hard-to-fill will be included in the new salary scale the Department of Public Health will propose to the Fitial administration, according to deputy secretary Pete Untalan.

At present, the hospital badly needs at least five physicians for key posts such as pediatrics and internal medicine. Other hard-to-fill positions in the non-physician level include nursing director, medical records administrator, renal social workers, and other mid-level health care practitioners.

Untalan said the hospital has had vacancies on these important positions for many years now.

He said the positions for nursing director and renal social worker have been vacant for many years and the hospital finds it difficult to find candidates for these posts due to their salaries being frozen at $49,000 per year.

"We need to start looking at their salaries to make it competitive," he told *Saipan Tribune* Sunday.

Untalan said the department's limited budget is one of the factors that hinder efforts to create a competitive pay scale for hospital staff.

"Every year we go up to the Legislature and ask for an increased budget for the hospital. But because of the fiscal crisis that we're in, it never happened," Untalan said.

He pointed out, though, that CHC remains fortunate to have all its employees working regular hours compared to their counterparts in Hawaii, which he said is now enforcing Friday furloughs across all government agencies.

Because of the government's present fiscal state, it can't afford to increase the wage rates of all hospital staff, hence the focus on hard-to-fill positions.

"We can't afford to [give] everyone a salary increase. It's going to be for selected hard-to-fill positions only because health care is very competitive. A good institution must have good people, certified, and qualified and we need to keep them," he said.

RP physicians

Untalan disclosed that they are currently in negotiation with some Manila hospitals to bring in some of their experts to Saipan.

"We're meeting with some people in these hospitals to bring top people who are licensed and board-certified in primary care…and we're in the process of addressing this concern at present," he said.

Five doctors from Manila are expected to soon join the hospital.

Gov. Benigno R. Fitial had declared a state of emergency for CHC due to the lack of needed physicians in various fields. Untalan said this declaration is what's helping CHC temporarily solve its staffing situation.

To augment the lack of physicians in important divisions at CHC, Untalan said they are hiring physicians for short-term contracts such as three months.

"It's only temporary …what we want to see is a stable and continuous health care in our hospital," he added.

Woman facing 'ice' charges fights with mother, grabs knife

The federal court has temporarily suspended the release to a third party custodian of a woman who is facing "ice" trafficking charges

U.S. District Court for the NMI Chief Judge Alex R. Munson ordered Sharee Demapan Diaz to remain in the custody of the U.S. Marshal until Dec. 17, 2009.

Munson issued the suspension order after U.S. Probation Officer Melinda N. Brunson reported that Diaz got into an argument with her mother and grabbed a knife on Tuesday.

Because of this incident, police arrested Diaz for disturbing the peace, Brunson said.

Quoting police officers, Brunson said that Diaz grabbed a knife during an argument. Not knowing her intention, her mother, Ana Demapan Castro, and Diaz's sister lunged toward the defendant to hold her down.

In the process of trying to get the knife away, the palm of defendant's hand was injured.

The situation was diffused by Diaz's stepfather and when police officers were summoned to the scene.

Castro told Brunson she does not feel comfortable continuing as third party custodian for Diaz. Castro said she believes her daughter needs time to calm down and think about her actions.

Brunson said Diaz also stated she does not wish to return to her mother's home at this time.

Diaz's counsel, Michael Dotts, and U.S. Attorney's Office Saipan branch chief Eric O'Malley agreed that the release to the third party custodian should be temporarily suspended for at least one week.

Drug Enforcement Administration agents arrested Diaz and Jawn Joyner last October after the U.S. government filed a complaint charging the two with conspiracy to distribute "ice."

The complaint also charged Joyner and Diaz with three

See WOMAN on Next Page

Man stabbed four times but gets arrested

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

Police arrested on Thursday a 31-year-old man who, while intoxicated, allegedly attacked three persons and damaged their car using rocks.

Kehdes Esteban Paulino was arrested for assault and battery, assault with a dangerous weapon, and criminal mischief.

During Friday's hearing, Superior Court associate judge Perry Inos imposed a $1,500 cash bail plus $13,500 unsecured bond for Paulino's temporary liberty. Preliminary hearing was set for Dec. 18.

In his report, detective Peter A. Aldan stated that a person had called the Department of Public Safety on Oct. 30, 2009, at 1:51am about an injured man at the MCM 2 Poker in San Jose.

Aldan said Minghu Quan told police that he was at MCM 2 Poker and had called his friend, He Tong Bo, to meet with him. After five minutes, Bo and his girlfriend arrived aboard a car.

As Quan and Bo were talking outside the arcade, Paulino walked out of the establishment and asked them for a ride home.

When Bo refused, an argument ensued. Paulino allegedly punched Bo, who managed to duck. Bo retaliated by kicking Paulino in the leg. The suspect walked across the road and got a rock the size of a baseball and threw it at Bo, who was hit on the right arm. The suspect picked another rock, hitting Bo in the head.

As the two struggled, Bo allegedly stabbed Paulino with a knife in the abdomen. This did not stop the suspect, as he chased Bo with rocks.

Bo got inside the car with his girlfriend and Quan but Paulino kept throwing rocks at them, smashing the vehicle's rear window and denting the left rear passenger door.

Shortly after the incident, Paulino was listed in the initial police report as the victim and the two Chinese nationals (Bo and Quan) as the suspects. A follow-up police investigation uncovered Paulino's role in the fracas.

Paulino sustained four stab wounds in the torso and stomach. He was admitted to the Commonwealth Health Center and was listed in stable condition.

In November 2006, police arrested Paulino after the alarm at Villaroyal Pawnshop in Gualo Rai went off when he allegedly broke into the establishment. Two responding police officers found the suspect hiding under a shelf inside the pawnshop.

DPH

From Page 2

counts of possession of a controlled substance with intent to distribute.

DEA said Diaz was Joyner's retail seller, runner and intermediary. ***(Ferdie de la Torre)***

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GUAM

From Page 1

dance of food, live music, and speeches that added to over five hours of festivities at the Garapan Fishing Base.

Camacho, a Republican, said he set aside politics and focused on friendship when he endorsed Fitial during the Nov. 7 general elections.

Fitial's Republican opponent, Rep. Heinz S. Hofschneider, won the general election by only eight votes but in the CNMI's first gubernatorial runoff election on Nov. 23, Fitial edged Hofschneider by 501 votes.

When the absentee votes were counted on Dec. 7, Fitial sealed his victory with a 370-vote lead over Hofschneider.

Camacho came to Saipan just to attend Fitial and Lt. Gov. Eloy Inos's victory party, and went back to Guam immediately afterwards.

Members of the Covenant Party said the crowd was anywhere between 1,500 and 3,000.

Covenant Party chair Gregorio "Kachuma" Camacho, who is also the chair of the Transition Committee, said the crowd was much bigger than the crowd at political rallies that the parties held this year.

HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

Lt. Gov. Eloy Inos, left, poses with Covenant Party officers and supporters during Saturday's crowded celebration at the Garapan Fishing Base of Gov. Benigno R. Fitial's re-election.

HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

Covenant Party supporters pose for the *Saipan Tribune* during Saturday's victory party at the Garapan Fishing Base.

"We ran a very smooth campaign and we met with all supporters. I thank all who supported the Covenant Party and its candidates. I hope people will come together again and put politics aside. I also want to take this opportunity to wish everyone Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year," Camacho said.

Fitial, 64, is only the second governor in CNMI history to be re-elected into office. The first one was former Gov. Pedro P. Tenorio.

Fitial's inauguration is set for Jan. 11, 2010. He is the first—and perhaps the only—CNMI governor to serve for five years because of a newly ratified legislative initiative requiring general elections to be held only on even-numbered years. When Fitial's second term ends, his successor will go back to serving a four-year term.

MCCAIN

From Page 1

more about it [the project]."

"I hope not. The Garapan Public Market is a project that will give our farmers and fishermen and craftspeople a place to sell their goods. And it will give tourists to the Marianas a new attraction where they can enjoy themselves and find gifts to bring home," Sablan said.

Sablan, at the same time, announced seven CNMI projects totaling $1.35 million that he was able to include in a Conference Report on Fiscal Year 2010 Consolidated Appropriations Act on Dec. 11.

By a vote of 221-202, the U.S. House of Representatives passed the conference report on Thursday.

"Since there has never been a congressman representing our islands, this is the first time we have ever been able to get this kind of targeted funding," Sablan said.

These projects and the funding approved include the $200,000 for the design and construction of the Garapan public market.

Also on the list are $250,000 for the Public School System's Refaluwasch and Chamorro language programs; $200,000 for the Northern Marianas Trade Institute for vocational and technical training; and $180,000 for the Micronesian Legal Services' Rota and Tinian outreach programs.

Completing the list are $200,000 for the Joeten-Kiyu Public Library's roof repairs; $220,000 for the Division of Fish and Wildlife's educational programs on marine sanctuaries; and $100,000 for the PSS purchase of library books and educational materials.

The U.S. Senate is expected to approve the conference report in the next few days and send it to President Obama for his signature.

OMBUDSMAN

From Page 1

"accounting process."

Dekada Movement counsel Stephen C. Woodruff, meanwhile, cautioned alien workers who do not have "umbrella permits" against participating in the "accounting" process.

"There is a very real risk that aliens lacking an umbrella permit who register with the Ombudsman's office could be setting themselves up as targets for deportation by U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement," said Woodruff in a statement. ***(See Page 11)***

In a public notice, the Ombudsman urged alien workers having last names starting with A and B to report to its offices at the Marina Heights II Building today, Monday, and register between 4pm to 12 midnight. Alien workers are told to bring a copy of their passport or other photo identification.

The Ombudsman registration will be held daily until Dec. 29, 2009.

The Ombudsman explained that this accounting process is based on Public Law 110-229 (the federalization law), which requires the U.S. Department of the Interior to report to the U.S. Congress the total number of aliens within the Commonwealth.

The Ombudsman said the federalization law further orders DOI to make recommendations to the U.S. Congress about the long-term status of aliens who were physically present in the CNMI on Nov. 28, 2009.

The published notice did not specifically mention if alien workers on Tinian and Rota need to come to Saipan for the registration.

Saipan Tribune repeatedly contacted Ombudsman Pamela Brown yesterday for clarification, but she was not answering calls.

United Workers Movement Inc. president Rabby Syed had welcomed the Ombudsman's accounting process, describing it as "good one."

But Woodruff disagreed. He said the process is being undertaken by the Ombudsman's office unilaterally, without any prior consultation or coordination with the CNMI Bar Association, the CNMI government, worker and alien advocacy groups, or other elements of the community.

Between Oct. 26 to Nov. 27, 2009, thousands of alien workers and those having immediate relative status went to the Department of Labor to obtain "umbrella permits."

CHINA

From Page 1

"Everything is back to normal now. Everyone is aware of the parole system, and all the procedures in getting Chinese and Russians to enter the CNMI after Nov 28," Fitial told *Saipan Tribune* in an interview right after the 3rd commencement exercises of Emmanuel College on Saturday night.

He said the plan by tour agencies is to resume the flights starting Dec. 18.

Sablan, in a Dec. 10 letter to U.S. State Secretary Hillary Clinton, said although there are no flights yet with passengers from the People's Republic of China to the CNMI, he was informed by tour operators in the Marianas that they will begin the flights on Dec. 18.

"While I regret that there has been loss of income both to businesses in the Marianas and to businesses in the People's Republic of China, I am heartened that there should soon be a continuation of regular flights," Sablan told Clinton.

The suspension of CNMI-bound charter flights from China came about when the Chinese government was not immediately informed by the U.S. State Department of the Department of Homeland Security's grant of parole to Chinese tourists entering the CNMI.

"In other words, when Secretary Napolitano issued the parole on Oct. 21, they sent that announcement over to the State Department, and from there, nobody knows where it went," the governor said.

China's Ministry of Foreign Affairs requires a technical code notification from the U.S. State Department of the new parole authority that would still allow Chinese tourists to enter the CNMI without a U.S. visa by Nov. 28.

Bordallo also wrote Clinton a letter on Dec. 10, asking her assistance in officially transmitting the new parole authority policy for Chinese tourists to the Chinese government so that these tourists can begin entering the CNMI.

"Every week that flights from China are not able to travel to the CNMI, an estimated $2.6 million in economic activity is lost," Bordallo told Clinton.

Bordallo chairs the U.S. House Subcommittee on Insular Affairs, Oceans and Wildlife, which has jurisdiction over Public Law 110-229 or the federalization law.

But Bordallo's letter may have been moot, considering that Sablan and Fitial had already announced that the State Department had already sent an official notification to the Chinese Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

Fitial said he had called up Homeland Security Janet Napolitano about the matter, right before he went to Guam for the 12th Micronesian Chief Executives Summit on Dec. 2 to 4.

He said he asked DHS to call the State Department and ask them when they transmitted the technical code to China.

"[DHS] Assistant Secretary Juliette Kayyem got all the inter-agencies concerned together and they finally pinned down the problem. She sent me an e-mail telling me what she had done and how the problem has now been resolved," Fitial said.

He said he never asked anybody for help in contacting DHS or the State Department in resolving the matter.

"Like I said, the only problem was caused by the non-transmission of [an official notification from the] State Department. DHS submitted Napolitano's announcement to the State Department. The technical code is now in China and China has already disseminated the information all the way down to all concerned parties, including airlines," Fitial said.

MVA said the suspension of charter flights from China could cost the CNMI up to $2.6 million in economic activity for each week the charter services remain suspended, at a time when the CNMI's tourism industry is already reeling from global economic recession. Visitor arrivals plunged by 31 percent, from 29,611 in October last year to 20,267 during the same month this year.

MVA, the CNMI government's tourism agency, said charter flights from the Chinese cities of Shanghai and Guangzhou bring in a maximum of 834 passengers every week.

Shanghai Airlines, which uses a Boeing 767 aircraft, has a seating capacity of 222. Because it flies twice weekly to the CNMI, it brings up to 444 passengers every week.

China Southern, which uses a 195-seater Boeing 757 aircraft, can bring in a maximum of 390 passengers for two flights every week.

MVA looked at the direct and indirect impacts the suspension of charter flights have on the CNMI economy if the load factor is anywhere between 70 percent and 100 percent, including hotel revenue, on island expenditure, multiplier effect, business gross revenue tax, and hotel tax.

Based on the MVA report, if the load factor is 100 percent with 834 passengers, the total fiscal impact on the CNMI economy every week could be $2,637,547.

With a 70 percent load factor with 255 passengers, the loss to the CNMI could be $805,072 every week.

A total of 73 percent of the seats are allocated to the Tinian Dynasty Holidays, an affiliate of Hong Kong Overseas Entertainment, doing business as Tinian Dynasty Hotel and Casino, while the rest is allocated to Century Tours.

11 graduate from Emmanuel College

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
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REPORTER

A total of 11 students graduated from the Emmanuel College's practical nursing program on Saturday during the institution's third annual commencement exercises held at Pacific Islands Club.

Gov. Benigno Fitial, the event's guest of honor, praised the students for completing the rigorous 11-month sessions of practical nursing.

Saturday's event marked the third batch of nursing students to graduate from the college. The college has already had 33 other graduates since the program's inception in 2008.

In his message, Fitial said the graduates' certificates of completion serve as their passport to an exciting and rewarding career in health care as vocational nurses.

"You have acquired an invaluable instrument that makes all of you uniquely advantaged. An education like yours from an institution as Emmanuel College sets you apart from many other nursing graduates not only in the Western Pacific region but from most of the nurses across the globe," he said.

"The world's economy is softer than it has ever been but while it seems to paint a bit of a cloudy future, I ask you not to be afraid. We are not a fearful Commonwealth. We stumble but we always manage to find the courage and fortitude to rise back up," he said.

This, he said, brought about the concept of establishing an education industry in the CNMI. Fitial thanked Sedy Demesa for setting up the Emmanuel College, the first private nursing school in the CNMI and the only one to offer 11-month vocational program throughout Micronesia.

College vice president Ramon Dizon emphasized that nursing is not only the most lucrative career in this time and age, but also one of the noblest professions since its mission is—and will always be—service to the sick and the infirm.

'A challenging journey'

For 47-year-old Paulina Perez, who was the class valedictorian, the whole experience was a challenging journey.

"There were many nights and days that I was close to giving up, thinking that nursing is not for me. I am just an average student…but in Emmanuel College, average or not, intelligent or not, it won't count much. It is how you adapt and respond to the need for care.," she said.

Perez, who grew up in Leyte, the Philippines, said it was her dream to become a nurse but it never happened. "Emmanuel College was an answer to what I thought was just a dream for me. Its affordable tuition, its relaxed setting and environment complemented or at least relaxed me, so to speak, to the demands of being a licensed practical nurse," she said.

Besides Perez, the other graduates were Chandel Canares, Doris Cruz, Yvette Cruz, Lovely Eclevia, Nolie Labadan, Farrah Louise Sison, Doreen Solomon, Qi Wang, Wu Xia, and Nan Yu.

The event was also attended by Lt. Gov. Eloy Inos, Senate President Pete Reyes, Public Health deputy secretary Pete Untalan, Emmanuel College board director Eli Arago, Emmanuel College Nursing director Elizabeth Untalan, and college instructor Ian Juleven Sison.

DOC clears issues about permits for investors and foreign students

The Department of Commerce has clarified that foreign investors, foreign retirees and foreign students are not required to hold the umbrella permit in order to remain in the CNMI, so long as they have a valid CNMI investor, retiree, or foreign student permits.

However, Commerce emphasized that prior to the expiration of their permits, foreign investors and retirees must apply for a CNMI-only E2 nonimmigrant investor visa with the U.S. Customs and Immigration Services. For foreign students, they have to secure foreign student visas.

RELATED NEWS
■ See Q&A on Page 15

"Umbrella permits are conditional in nature and will only be valid through Nov. 28, 2011, if you maintain compliance with the requirements of the issuance of the permit," Commerce said.

For those who want to maintain their status in the CNMI beyond November 2011, foreign investors, retirees, and students need to apply for proper visas with federal offices.

Commerce pointed out that foreign investors and foreign enrollees are free to immediately apply for a visa and need not wait for the expiration of their two-year umbrella permits. ***(Moneth Deposa)***

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No changes in transitional worker rule reopened for comments

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

The U.S. Department of Homeland Security has not made any changes to its interim final rule on the CNMI Transitional Worker Classification but merely reopened it for public comment on Dec. 10.

The interim final rule seeks to create a new CNMI-only transitional worker, or "CW," classification intended to be effective during the transition period from Nov. 28, 2009 to Dec. 31, 2014. It was initially published on Oct. 27 and intended to become effective on Nov. 27.

But a federal judge issued a preliminary injunction two days prior to federalization, preventing DHS from implementing the regulations on Nov. 28, to give the public enough time to comment as required by the Administrative Procedures Act.

Two weeks later, DHS reopened and extended for another 30 days the public comment period for the interim final rule as published in the Dec. 10 Federal Register.

ON THE NET
- www.regulations.gov

The comment period will remain open until Jan. 8, 2010, and not Jan. 7, 2010, as earlier announced.

Marie Thérèse Sebrechts, DHS-U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services regional media manager, said Friday that USCIS "will consider all comments received during the public comment period of Oct. 27, 2009 to Jan. 8, 2010 in the development of its final transitional worker rule.

"Pursuant to a recent order of the U.S. District Court for the District of Columbia, DHS will not implement the transitional worker visa classification provisions until DHS considers comments received on the interim rule, makes any necessary revisions resulting from those comments, and issues a final rule," Sebrechts said.

The interim final rule will continue to be available for public comment at www.regulations.gov. To find this rule on regulations.gov, search under the docket number USCIS-2008-0038.

Teresa Kim, interim press secretary, said re-opening the comment period on regulations that are the subject of a court order is a customary practice for an agency that now must decide how to respond to the court order.

"Prior comments were provided without the benefit of either the court's opinion with respect to the Commonwealth's challenge to the statute or the court's second opinion with respect to the Commonwealth's challenge to the failure by DHS to abide by the requirements of the federal Administrative Procedure Act," she told *Saipan Tribune* when asked for comment.

Some 100 entities submitted comments to the interim final rule in its initial public comment period.

"The additional comment period will give others a chance to provide DHS with information for use in the rule-making process. The administration urges all affected persons and businesses to take advantage of this opportunity to assist DHS in promulgating a practical and workable rule that will not further damage the Commonwealth's economy," Kim added.

Saipan Chamber of Commerce president Jim Arenovski, lawyer Steve Woodruff and United Workers Movement-NMI board chair Ronnie Doca earlier said they welcome the additional public comment period.

Since the reopening of the public comment period, one comment has so far been posted online from an individual whose name was withheld.

"To all legislators, it's simple and straightforward. If you were in our shoes, having a family here on the island of Saipan, will you want your kids to be left out whenever us as parents cannot step back to U.S. soil because we were denied by the embassy after having a vacation? Who will take care of our kids? Who will raise them? Isn't it in the school system they are teaching that U.S. is the land of the free? But now, who is saying that is the enemy," the commenter said.

DHS is establishing a Transitional Worker Visa category, a new nonimmigrant visa classification under the Immigration and Nationality Act using the admission code CW-1 for the principal transitional worker and CW-2 for dependents. "CW" stands for "Commonwealth transitional worker."

A "transitional worker" is defined as an alien worker who is currently ineligible for another classification under the INA and who performs services or labor for an employer in the CNMI.

Under the CNMI-Only Transitional Worker program, employers may file a petition for a transitional worker with USCIS using Form I-129CW, Petition for a Nonimmigrant Worker in the CNMI.

The Form I-29CW is a modified form of the Form I-29, but it is specifically used for the Commonwealth-only Transitional Worker program.

The fee for Form I129-CW would be $320, the same amount charged for the I-129, and an $80 biometrics fee.

In addition, the Consolidated Natural Resources Act mandates a "CNMI education funding fee" of $150 per beneficiary per year, which cannot be waived.

Under the interim final rule, the CNMI-Only Transitional Worker program includes all occupational categories being used in the CNMI now.

Also, for the first year, the numerical limits for CW-1 status are based on the CNMI government's own estimate of the nonresident worker population, which is 22,417. After the first year, the numerical limit will decrease, as determined by the DHS secretary.

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McPhetres says power being concentrated at NMC

Fernandez: Academic freedom central to college's mission

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
Moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

It's been 26 years when he first joined the Northern Marianas College as an instructor in 1983. But for Samuel McPhetres, the present leadership of Dr. Carmen Fernandez is the only administration that sets itself apart with its focus on concentrating power at the college.

McPhetres, a respected historian and political commentator, credited Fernandez's leadership for enabling NMC's re-accreditation and the work being done on the college's new building design. However, he said Fernandez also appears bent on concentrating her power at the college.

"People are still leaving and are still being kicked out…[and] all seems to be about concentrating authority," he said, believing that this is the institution's "present and real danger."

When asked how the college could foster better leadership, McPhetres said everything needs to start with the body that creates the leader. "As far as leadership goes…it's up to the Board of Regents," he added.

Fernandez, in a statement Friday, emphasized that academic freedom is central to the mission of NMC.

"Let me emphasize, with no reservation, that academic freedom is central to the mission of the college, and we protect such freedom in order to ensure that NMC students are exposed to and learn from diverse ideas and views," she said.

Fernandez added that the "media will not be used as a forum to adjudicate faculty concerns."

"The college has a shared governance system in place to encourage participation from all levels of the institution. This system includes the Associated Students of NMC, Staff Senate, Faculty Senate, and other committees and councils," said Fernandez, adding that all employees are welcome to meet with her to share their concerns, suggestions, or comments.

Surveys

McPhetres' Current Issues class has for many years produced several studies and surveys, focusing on matters that are of great interest to the community and students, including prostitution, drug abuse, federalization, tourism, zoning, the college's performance, and election surveys. Many of these studies have been turned over to government agencies as references.

McPhetres, who has less than a month before his contract with NMC expires on Jan. 6, is convinced his contract was not renewed due to the result of one of such studies that somehow "did not please" the college president and the Board of Regents.

Early this year, McPhetres' Current Issues class came out with the results of a survey that showed a high level of dissatisfaction with Fernandez and the Board of Regents among students and faculty. Both got poor ratings from respondents.

The survey was done a month before the college was re-accredited in June 2009.

McPhetres is convinced that this survey result was among the reasons behind his non-renewal. However, he said he was not surprised with the decision.

"I knew it was coming…I can say that the climate in the college has been getting more and more fractious. Somebody out there is feeding information to the president regarding our poll. …They thought I was doing it intentionally," he said.

After receiving the president's decision, McPhetres said he did not even attempt to appeal.

"The only reason given in the letter…and I will quote it: 'Your contract expires Jan. 6, 2010, and this is to inform you that you will not be offered another job," he said.

On Friday, the long-time instructor was in a hurry to meet with his class and prepare for the finals week. All he wants now is to have a smooth transition for his students.

"I will miss my students, " he admitted.

When asked about his plans, McPhetres said he may explore the idea of retiring from service and re-design his office in Garapan. He said he may also write a book someday, probably about his life at NMC.

Academic freedom

McPhetres is just one of many long-time employees whose contracts were not renewed for unknown reasons—as allowed under any NMC employment contract. Before him, others who were also let go included department chairs Mark Haag and Glenn Keaton, who were among those who filed grievances against the management early this year.

Saipan Tribune learned that there were other key employees who either opted to leave or were given graceful exits.

Since reports came out about his non-renewal, students and community members have expressed messages of support for McPhetres.

"Everybody was shocked… and couldn't believe it," he said.

NMC *Spring* 2010 *important dates*

Registration for the Northern Marianas College's Spring 2009 Semester will begin on Jan. 11, 2010, and will continue to Jan. 16, 2010. New students are required to take an English and Math placement test before they register. The schedule of placement tests can be found online at www.nmcnet.edu. Students who anticipate on graduating in May 2010 can register for classes on Jan. 8, 2010.

Those who have not applied for admission can still do so by visiting the College's Office of Admissions and Records and picking up an application form. Application forms can also be downloaded from the NMC Web site.

Application for admissions will be accepted until the last day of registration, Jan. 16, 2010, provided that both placement tests have been taken. Note the following dates below:

- Jan. 8, 2010: Registration for Spring 2009 graduating candidates (1pm to 5pm)
- Jan. 11-15, 2010: Open registration for Spring 2009 Semester (9am to 6pm). Must have English and Math placement level to register.
- Jan. 16, 2010: Late registration (9am to 12pm)
- Jan. 19, 2010: First day of instruction

For more information about admissions or registration, contact OAR at 234-5498 Ext 1537 or email oar@nmcnet.edu. ***(NMC)***

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From December 1, 2009 to January 3, 2010
Mahi Mahi Escabeche
Corn Soup
Garlic Bread
Spaghetti Pepperoncino with Shrimp and Cucumber
Smoked Tri-Tip Steak with Sauteed Vegetable
Homemade Pumpkin Pie
$45.99 per set
with complimentary two bottles of Carlsberg
Homemade Pumpkin Pie Special Offer!
"Buy 3 Whole Pies, Get 1 Free!!" $77.97 (50% discount value. $3.25/slice!)
1 whole pumpkin pie only $25.99 (30% discount value) ☆ 1 slice pumpkin pie only $4.99 (20% discount value)
Offer valid until January 3, 2010
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(December 24, 2009)

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Minami Restaurant	Chinese Dinner Buffet $33.00 adult & $16.50 child
Kaenju Restaurant	All You Can Eat Seafood & Steak Teppanyaki Style $44.00 adult & $22.00 child

Christmas Day Specials
(December 25, 2009)

Pau Pau Bar & Terrace	Ladies Night at Pau Pau Bar 50% off on selected beverages
Minami Restaurant	Christmas Day Brunch $35.00 adult & $17.50 child Christmas Dinner Buffet $33.00 adult & $16.50 child
Kaenju Restaurant	All You Can Eat Seafood & Steak Teppanyaki Style $44.00 adult & $22.00 child

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COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS
COUNCIL on DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES
Developmental Disabilities Basic State Grant Program
Bldg. No 1312, Capitol Hill • P.O. Box 502565, Saipan, MP 96950-2565
Tel.: (670) 664-7000 • Fax: (670) 664-7030
Email: p.sablan@cnmicdd.org • Website: www.cnmicdd.org

1st Quarterly Council on Developmental Disabilities Board Meeting

Attention General Public:

Pursuant to Public Law 8-41, Section 12, the CNMI Council on Developmental Disabilities under Chairperson Marissa Guerrero is hereby calling for the First Quarterly Meeting to take place on December 19, 2009 (Saturday) from 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. on Saipan at the (CNMI Council on Developmental Disabilities Conference Room). The meeting is called based upon the CNMI Council on Developmental Disabilities Bylaws (dated January 31, 2003).

AGENDA

I. Call to Order
II. Roll Call
III. Establishment of Order
IV. Adoption of Agenda – December 19, 2009
V. Adoption of Minutes – September 22, 2009
VI. Adoption of By-Laws
VII. Committee Reports
  a. Call-A-Ride Committee Report-PSS-CDD MOA
  b. Fiscal Committee Report-DD Basic FY 2010 Budget
VIII. Executive Director's Report
IX. New Business
  a. CDD Quarterly Newsletter
  b. State Plan 2012
X. Open Discussion
XI. Next meeting
XII. Adjournment

In accordance to the American with Disabilities Act (ADA), individuals who wish to attend this meeting and require special accommodations are requested to call the Council 3 days in advance at 664-7000. The Public is welcome to submit written or oral comments regarding the agenda above.

/S/ Marissa Guerrero, Chairperson

COMMONWEALTH UTILITIES CORPORATION
INVITATION FOR BIDS
CUC-IFB-10-009

Construction of a New Secondary Containment at Power Plant 1, Saipan

The Office of the Executive Director, Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC), is soliciting sealed bids from qualified contractors or firms for the Construction of a New Secondary Containment at Power Plant 1, Saipan, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

A mandatory site visit and pre-bid meeting is scheduled for December 16, 2009 at 10:OO AM, local time at CUC Power Plant 1 Administration Building, Lower Base, Saipan, to ensure that the contractors are fully aware of the work involved and familiarize with the site conditions. All proposers are advised that CUC assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on the part of the proposers due to lack of information or understanding of the plant site conditions in the course of Contractor's preparation of a bid or performance of work under the contract.

One (1) original and five (5) copies must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked **"IFB 10 - 009 – Construction of a New Secondary Containment at Power Plant 1, Saipan"** to the CUC Procurement & Supply Office, Room No.4, 3rd Floor Joeten Dandan, P.O. Box 501220, Saipan, MP 96950, no later than **Wednesday, December 30, 2009 at IOAM.,** (CST) local time, at which time they will be publicly opened and read aloud. Late submissions and conditional bids will not be considered.

A bid guarantee of 15 percent of the total bid price must accompany the bids. The security deposit may be in cash, certified check, cashier's check, or bid bond executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of Treasury. A performance and payment bond of hundred (100%) percent each of the total proposal price will be required upon the execution of the contract by the successful bidders. Surety companies must hold a certificate of authority from the U.S. Secretary of the Treasury as an acceptable surety for proposal security. No advance payment will be authorized on the project or an Irrevocable Letter of Credit (100% aggregate contract cost/CUC Beneficiary) or a payment bond. All insurers questions, concerns and qualification should handled by the Department of Commerce Office of the Insurance Commissioner (OIC). The OIC is tasked with regulating and monitoring compliance to the CNMI's Insurance Code (Tide 4, Division 7). A Clearance from the OIC certifying their insurer of choice is in compliance with the CNMI's Insurance Code.

The bidder is required to submit a copy of his CNMI Business license in compliance with the Contractor's Registration and Licensing Laws of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, upon award of the contract. The Contractor and all subcontractors will be obligated to pay wage rates not less that the current CNMI minimum wage, prevailing through the period of contract, as indicated in the web page - http://www.dol.gov/esa/minwage/cnmi/cnmi.htm. The contractor shall be required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal Laws.

The Scope-of-Work and Bid package will be **e-mailed**, upon request, to all interested bidders, by the CUC, Procurement & Supply Office, during working days, from 7:30 a.m. to 4:00 PM, local time, **until December 23, 2009**. Contractors are advised that the work will be carried out as a part of CUC response actions under the consent decree noted as Stipulated Order No. 2 (SO 2).

All inquiries must be submitted in writing no later than **10:OO AM local time on Thursday, December 24,2009**, to Mr. Manuel B. Sablan, Jr., Procurement & Supply Manager via email at **msablan@cucgov.net** and Mr. Venugopal Prabhakara, Power Generation Managing Engineer via email at **venu@cucgov.net** with a copy to Ms. Becky Grimes at **beckyg@cucgov.net**.

Selection procedure shall be in full compliance with CUC Procurement Regulations. CUC reserves the right to reject any or all bids and waive any imperfection in the bid proposal in the interest of the government.

/s/ TIMOTHY M. CONNOR
CUC Legal Counsel

/s/ ABE UTU MALAE
Assistant Executive Director for Operation

/s/ ANTONIO S. MUNA
Executive Director

NMI Judiciary to establish a Judicial Council

Efforts to unify and streamline the CNMI Supreme and Superior Court's administrative functions took an important step forward when on Sept. 30, 2009; a Rule of Appellate Procedure establishing a Judicial Council was submitted to the 16th Legislature for approval.

Sixty days passed following the submission and neither house of the Legislature disapproved the establishing rules. Consequently, pursuant to Article 4, Section 9 of the CNMI Constitution, the Supreme Court Justices on Dec. 1, 2009, ordered that the Rule of Appellate Procedure establishing a Judicial Council become permanent and effective as Rule 52 of the Commonwealth Rules of Appellate Procedure.

A Judicial Council composed of Supreme Court Justices and Superior Court Judges will be a corner stone of the judiciary's effort to reorganize its administrative structure. Rule 52 states that the Judiciary Council is formed to "ensure fair, accountable, and efficient court management, and to institutionalize an administrative structure that strengthens public trust in the judicial branch."

One of the early undertakings of the Judicial Council is expected to be a review of organizational plans that reflect a regrouping of current staff to allow for better accountability and resource management. The plan is designed to avoid the extra costs of duplicative services by maintaining non-judicial services in a unified administrative office which serves all courts.

The judiciary administrative reorganization found its most recent motivation from an August 2009 report by the National Center for State Courts intended to help the Judicial Branch improve its delivery of legal services. The report concluded that the Supreme and Superior Courts should combine many of their non-judicial functions into a unified administration headed by a judicial council. The justices, judges and court managers agreed with the NCSC consultants' conclusions.

The Council will have five voting members consisting of the three Supreme Court justices, the presiding judge of the Superior Court and one of the four associate judges to be elected by the Superior Court judges. Non-voting members will include the president of the NMI Bar Association and court managers. The meetings of the Council will be open to the general public and are expected to occur at least quarterly. ***(PR)***

Flashback

A LOOK BACK AT PAST YEARS' HEADLINES

Dec.14, 1998

PSS acts to avert teachers exodus
The Public School System has temporarily waived the 10 percent liquidated damages clause provided in the employment contract as a move to account the number of teachers who will not return after the Christmas break. In a memorandum, Commissioner of Education Rita H. Inos offers this one time deal to teachers who will terminate their contracts in the middle of the school year provided they will notify her office on or before Friday. Based on its personnel handbook, employees who resign within their first two years of employment shall pay 10 percent of their annual salary as liquidated damages and in payment of any attorney's fees incurred.

Police search for car in hit-and-run
A man was killed near the La Liesta mall early morning yesterday in a hit-and-run case. A caller had tipped police that a Hyundai Elantra with license plate A-C-H 402 was involved. In a news release, police also asked the informant to call back. Police said the car's front may have extensive damage. In another case, a man was cut up by a boat's propeller while fishing off Managaha, witnesses and police said yesterday. Police spokeswoman Rose Ada said the man was ran over by the boat.

Dec. 14, 1999

Manglona gets 24 months for bribery
Federal Court Judge Alex Munson yesterday sentenced former Tinian Sen. Herman Manglona to 24 months imprisonment after he was found guilty of accepting bribery and attempting to influence a grand jury. Mr. Manglona will serve the sentence concurrently for each count. The court also ordered him to pay $15,000 to the Commonwealth, the amount which he raked in during the time he was accepting bribe money from Sablan Construction Ltd., Inc. when he was mayor of Tinian. The former senator was also fined $15,000 plus $200 for special assessment ($100 for each count). He was placed under supervised release for three years.

Still no to takeover
The Northern Marianas government will not cave in to pressure to restrict hiring of foreign workers for jobs on the island as key lawmakers brushed aside yesterday the latest attempt by Washington to take away local control of immigration, minimum wage and customs. But Gov. Pedro P. Tenorio declined making official statement on the proposal offered by President Clinton's special emissary to the 902 talks, Edward B. Cohen, that will be presented by the White House to U.S. Congress next month. This is the same proposal laid out during the resumption of the 902 consultation meeting held on Saipan early this year between Mr. Cohen and members of the CNMI panel headed by Lt. Gov. Jesus R. Sablan, according to legislators.

Dec. 14 2000

Criminal charges mulled vs ex-Rota officials
The CNMI Attorney General is exploring the possibility of filing charges against former officials of the Rota Mayor's Office, after findings by an investigation by the Office of the Public Auditor revealed they used coercive actions against their employees. In a letter to the OPA, Attorney General Herbert Soll said his office anticipates charging the individuals involved with multiple counts of theft, bribery, political coercion, conspiracy, solicitation and misconduct in public office. Mr. Soll said he has instructed the AGO's Investigative Unit to review certain witness statements that are critical to the most serious charges and update their version of events since the incidents occurred three years ago.

Sablan leads public auditor nominees
A new Public Auditor is likely to be named this week by Gov. Pedro P. Tenorio before outgoing OPA chief Leo L. LaMotte leaves the post he held for over six years. Mike S. Sablan, the governor's special advisor for finance and budget, is a shoo-in among the list of people under consideration to head the Office of Public Auditor. Senate Committee on Executive Appointments and Governmental Investigations chair Sen. Joaquin G. Adriano yesterday backed Mr. Sablan as a "good and qualified" replacement for Mr. LaMotte. He said members of the committee have also expressed support for the top finance official, but added others are still jockeying for the position and seeking endorsement from the senators.

Census 2010 JOB FAIR

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands

Rota & Tinian

Dates, Times and Locations to complete an application and be tested are as follows:

Rota	Tinian
Monday, December 14th – 2:00pm – 7:00pm Tuesday, December 15th – 9:00am – 12:00noon Rota NMC Campus	Monday, December 21st – 2:00pm – 7:00pm Tuesday, December 22nd – 9:00am – 12:00noon Tinian NMC Campus

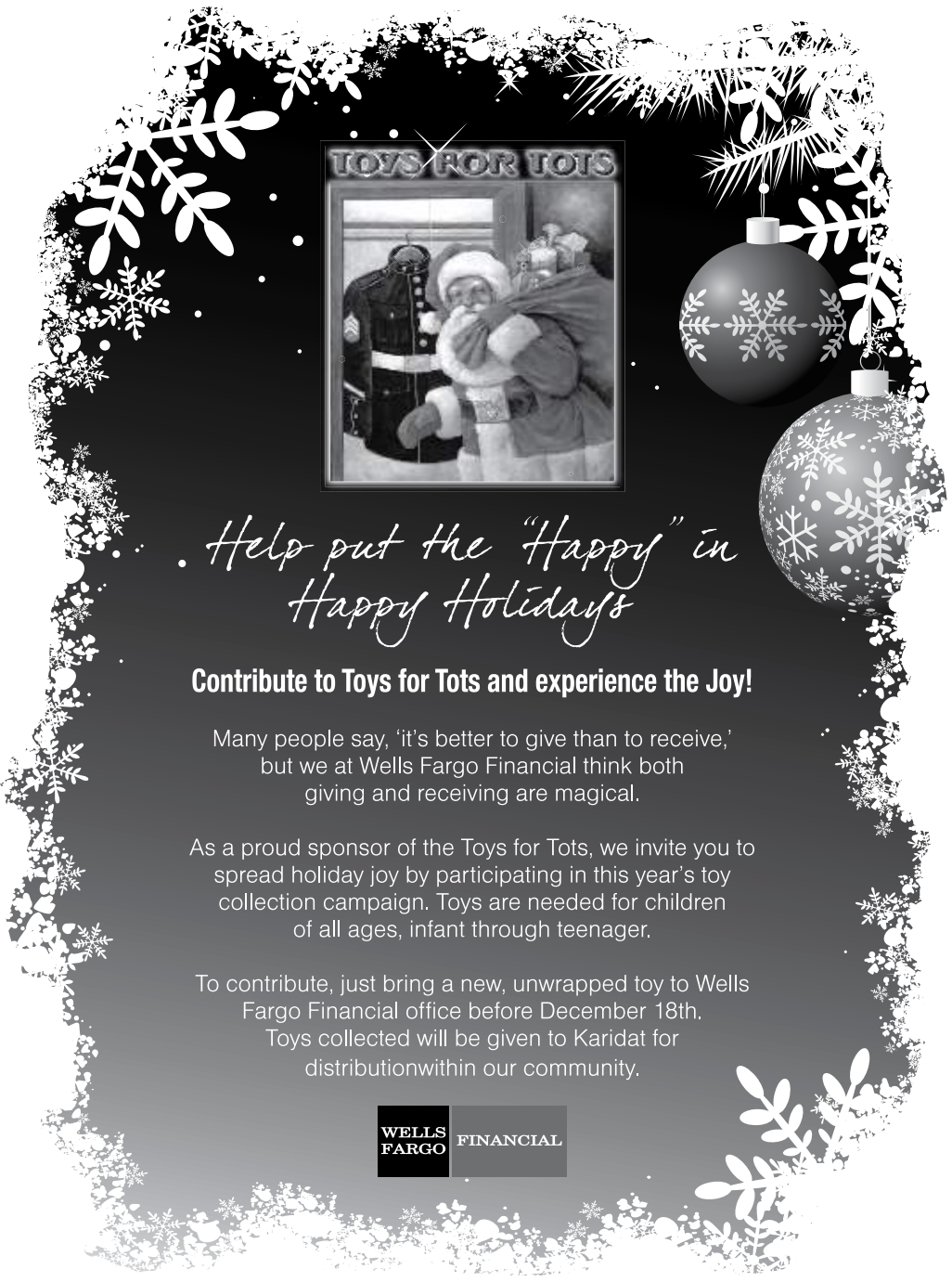
Testing will be offered approximately every hour for applicants with a completed application. Please bring a picture ID in order to complete the testing on the day of the Job Fair. Practice tests are available on the 2010 Census Website at ***http://2010.census.gov/2010censusjobs/pdf/Practice_Test.pdf***

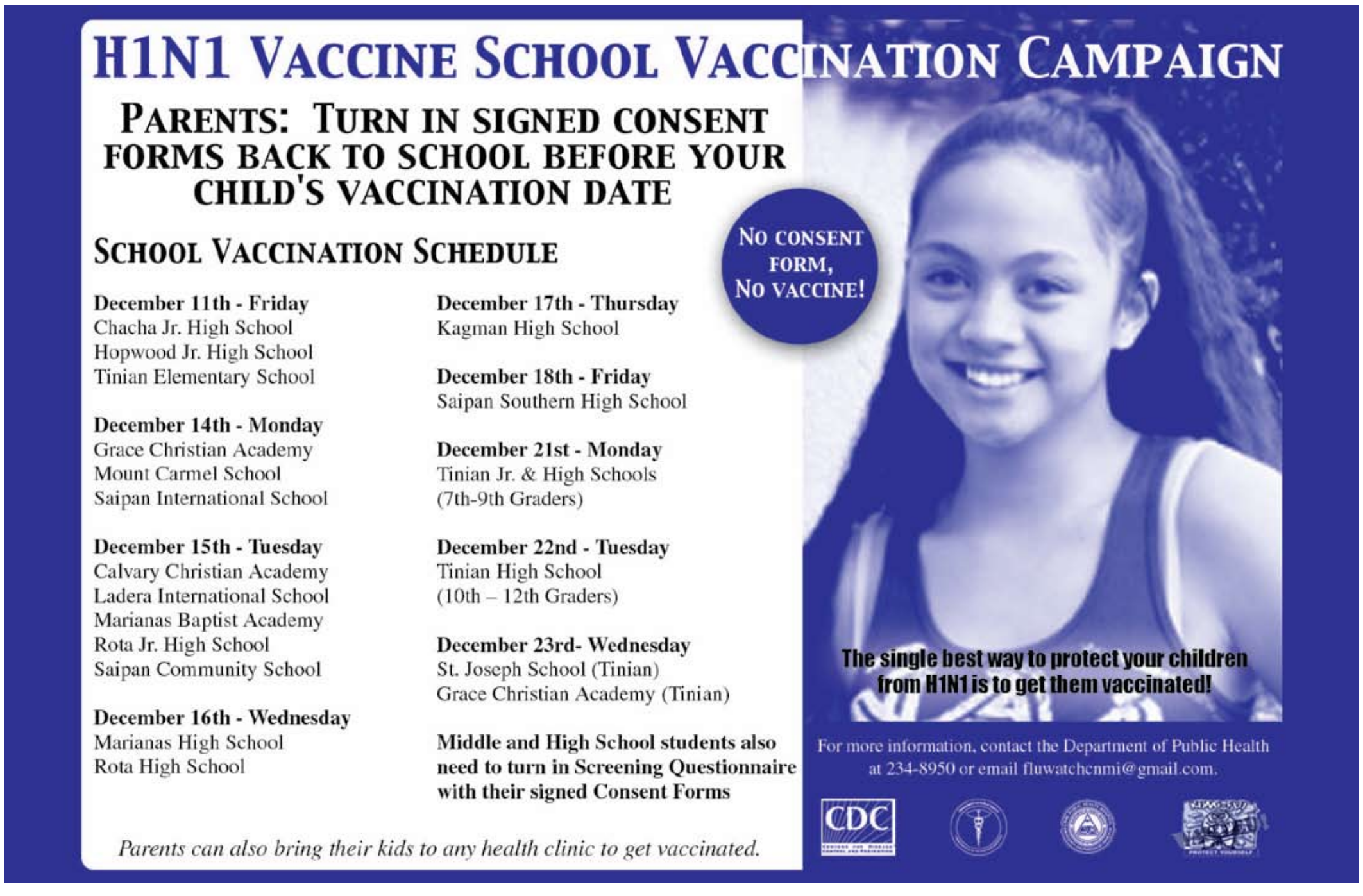
A police clearance is not needed to apply and will be completed prior to employment if selected, along with a mandatory drug screening. Both the police clearance and the drug screening costs will be reimbursed after hire. Other US Census employment requirements are as follows:

- Must be at least 18 years old and a high school graduate or have a GED. Some people, however, may be hired at age 16 if they meet conditions of employment set by local laws and are high school graduates.
- Be a U.S. citizen (However, if not a U.S. citizen, an applicant may be considered if qualified workers are still needed as translators or enumerators with special language skills)
- Have a social security number before being appointed.
- Must submit to the FBI fingerprint screening.
- Pass a written test of basic skills
- Have a valid driver's license (for most field jobs)

Applications can be picked up at the OPM office on Tinian and Rota and completed in advance of the Job Fair. Please bring the completed application to the Job Fair, including a photocopy of a picture ID and high school diploma. If an application was submitted in advance of the Job Fair, Census staff will have a list of all applications submitted and will allow applicants to complete testing during the Job Fair on Rota and Tinian. Copies of an applicant's ID and high school diploma can also be added at the Job Fair.

All information about job opportunities is posted on 2010 CNMI Census tab on the CNMI Department of Commerce website at http://www.commerce.gov.mp . Further information is also available by calling the Local Census Office at 288-3027/23.


TOYS FOR TOTS
Help put the "Happy" in Happy Holidays
Contribute to Toys for Tots and experience the Joy!
Many people say, 'it's better to give than to receive,' but we at Wells Fargo Financial think both giving and receiving are magical.
As a proud sponsor of the Toys for Tots, we invite you to spread holiday joy by participating in this year's toy collection campaign. Toys are needed for children of all ages, infant through teenager.
To contribute, just bring a new, unwrapped toy to Wells Fargo Financial office before December 18th. Toys collected will be given to Karidat for distributionwithin our community.
WELLS FARGO FINANCIAL


H1N1 VACCINE SCHOOL VACCINATION CAMPAIGN
PARENTS: TURN IN SIGNED CONSENT FORMS BACK TO SCHOOL BEFORE YOUR CHILD'S VACCINATION DATE
SCHOOL VACCINATION SCHEDULE
December 11th - Friday
Chacha Jr. High School
Hopwood Jr. High School
Tinian Elementary School
December 14th - Monday
Grace Christian Academy
Mount Carmel School
Saipan International School
December 15th - Tuesday
Calvary Christian Academy
Ladera International School
Marianas Baptist Academy
Rota Jr. High School
Saipan Community School
December 16th - Wednesday
Marianas High School
Rota High School
December 17th - Thursday
Kagman High School
December 18th - Friday
Saipan Southern High School
December 21st - Monday
Tinian Jr. & High Schools
(7th-9th Graders)
December 22nd - Tuesday
Tinian High School
(10th – 12th Graders)
December 23rd- Wednesday
St. Joseph School (Tinian)
Grace Christian Academy (Tinian)
Middle and High School students also need to turn in Screening Questionnaire with their signed Consent Forms
Parents can also bring their kids to any health clinic to get vaccinated.
NO CONSENT FORM, NO VACCINE!
The single best way to protect your children from H1N1 is to get them vaccinated!
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CDC

Opinion

Hafa Adai!
Saipan Tribune
CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER
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Mark Rabago ASSISTANT EDITOR

MEMBER

The Associated Press | Pacific Islands News Association

EDITORIAL

Trouble at TSA

The Transportation Security Administration (TSA) is the federal agency that everyone loves to hate. It makes us arrive hours before our plane flights and makes us jump through more hoops than circus seals do to board them. These sometimes invasive procedures are meant to give us confidence that the federal government is safeguarding the nation's skies. But something happened Sunday that shows why confidence in the TSA is in short supply.

In March, the TSA, which is part of the Department of Homeland Security (DHS), issued a request for proposal for an agency screening partnership program. This called for an outdated and redacted version of an air passenger screening manual to be posted at the Federal Business Opportunities Web site. It wasn't until Sunday—nine months later—that it was revealed that the hidden information was recoverable. None of it was classified. But there was a trove of potentially useful tidbits for al-Qaida and other terrorist groups.

The 93-page document revealed the kind of wire that doesn't set off alarms on airport screening machines. It pointed out that only 20 percent of all checked bags are hand-searched for explosives. It showed sample identification cards for members of Congress and law enforcement officials. It highlighted the kinds of things that are optional for TSA screeners to inspect, such as wheelchairs and prosthetic devices. Five people have been put on administrative leave until the inspector general of DHS completes a review of what happened.

In the meantime, the TSA is working overtime to convince everyone that air travelers are in no danger. The manual in question has been revised six times and is constantly updated. Besides, agency officials say, there are many layers of security to protect passengers "from the curb to the cockpit." Good to know.

What would be even better would be having an agency leader. The confirmation of Erroll Southers, assistant Homeland Security chief at Los Angeles International Airport, as the new TSA administrator is being held up by Sen. Jim DeMint, R-S.C. He wants Southers to say whether he's in favor of unionizing TSA screeners. We understand his concern. We're not in favor of unionization. But we're more opposed to senators using their power to hold bills or nominations that deserve to stand on their own merit. DeMint should release Southers' nomination. As this latest episode shows, TSA needs a permanent leader so that more mistakes aren't made.

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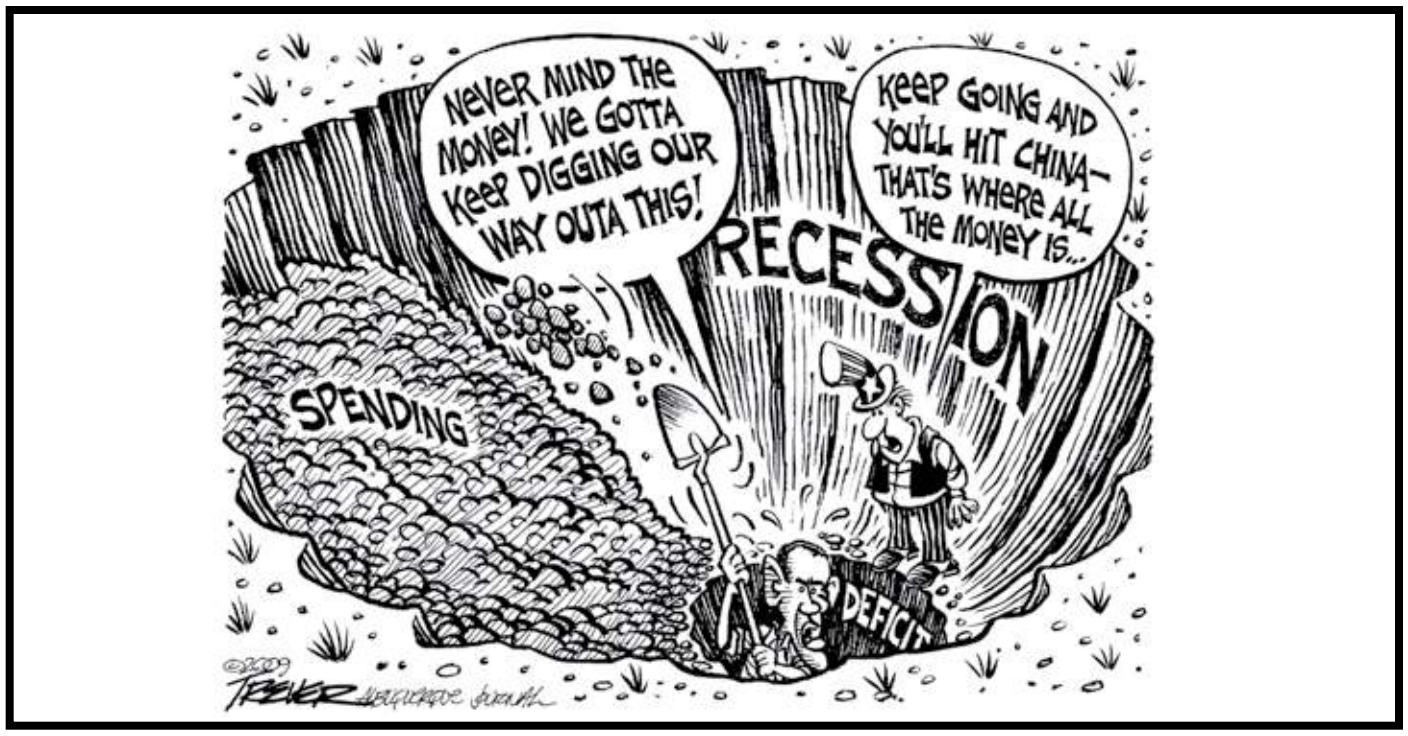

NEVER MIND THE MONEY! WE GOTTA KEEP DIGGING OUR WAY OUTA THIS!
KEEP GOING AND YOU'LL HIT CHINA— THAT'S WHERE ALL THE MONEY IS...
RECESSION
SPENDING
DEFICIT
TREVER

Stop me if you've heard this one before

By ANTHONY PELLEGRINO
Special to the Saipan Tribune

Pellegrino is a longtime businessman in the CNMI and is the former president of the Saipan Chamber of Commerce.

Today instead of pontificating about serious matters, let us instead enjoy a few minutes of laugher. We have so much confusion going today with the implementation of federalization and the selection of a new governor. Prices skyrocketing. Problems, problems! Laugher will relieve the stress and anxiety we are experiencing as we approach the joyous season of Christmas. So let's lighten up a bit and smile. Hope the little vignettes will make your day more pleasant.

Here are some student excuses from parents to schools. (Honestly):

1. Please excuse Lisa for being absent. She was sick and I had her shot.
2. Sally won't be in school a week from Friday. We have to attend her funeral.
3. Please excuse Tommy for being absent yesterday. He had diarrhea and his boots leak.
4. John has been absent because he had two teeth taken out of his face.
5. Megan could not come to school today because she has been bothered by very close veins.

The following were taken from recent classified ads:

1. Free Puppies—Part German Shepherd—Part Dog.
2. Cows, Calves never bred---Also I gay bull for sale.
3. Free puppies—cocker spaniel and sneaky neighbor's dog.
4. Nice parachute: never opened—used once, slightly stained.
5. Joining nudist colony/ must sell washer and dryer.

Kids Say the Darnest Things (Written on test papers)

1. The parts of speech are lungs and air.
2. The four seasons are salt, pepper, mustard and vinegar.
3. The spinal column is long bunch of bones. The head sits on the top and you sit on the bottom.
4. Syntax is all the money collected at the church from sinners.
5. A person should take a bath once in the summer, not so often in the winter.

Memories of the Good Old Days

Some quotes from people in the U.S. during the 1950s. Sound familiar?

1. When I first started driving, who would have thought gas would someday cost 50 cents a gallon?
2. Have you seen the new cars coming out next year? It won't be long when $5,000 will only buy a used one.
3. Did you hear the post office is thinking about charging a dime just to mail a letter?
4. Did you know the new church in town is allowing women to wear slacks to their service?
5. No one can afford to be sick. $35 a day in the hospital is too rich for my blood.

Actual bumper stickers observed on America's roads

1. Want a taste of religion? Bit a minister.
2. Do not tailgate or I will flick a booger on your windshield.
3. Join the Army: visit exotic places, meet interesting people and then kill them.
4. Fight crime. Shoot back!
5. Jesus is coming, look busy!

■ ■ ■

How's this for quick thinking?

Mr. Smith was brought to Mercy Hospital (a Catholic hospital) and taken quickly in for coronary surgery. The operation went well and, as the groggy man regained consciousness, he was assured by a Sister of Mercy, who was waiting by his bed.

"Mr. Smith, you're going to be just fine," said the nun. "We need to know, however, how you intend to pay for your stay here. Are you covered by insurance?

"No, I'm not," answered the man hoarsely.

"Then can you pay in cash?" persisted the nun.

"I'm afraid I cannot, sister."

"Well do you have any close relatives?"

"Just my sister in New Mexico. But she's a humble spinster nun."

"Oh, I must correct you. Nuns are not spinsters—they are married to God."

"Wonderful," said Mr. Smith. "In that case, please send the bill to my brother-in-law!"

■ ■ ■

Here is a story that I hope none of us will ever experience:

While cruising at 30,000 feet, the airplane shuddered. A passenger looked out the window. "Good Lord!" he screamed. "One of the engines just blew up." Other passengers left their seats and came running over; suddenly the aircraft was rocked by a second blast as yet another engine explored on the other side.

The passengers were in a panic now, and even the flight attendants couldn't maintain order. Just then, standing tall and smiling confidently, the pilot strode from the cockpit and assured everyone that there was nothing to worry about.

His words and demeanor seemed to make most of the passengers feel better, and they sat down. The pilot calmly walked to the door of the aircraft. There, he grabbed several packages from under the seats and began handing them to the flight attendants. Each crew member attached the package to his or her back.

"Say," spoke up an alert passenger. "Aren't they parachutes?" The pilot said they were. The passenger went on. "But I thought you said there was nothing to worry about?"

"There isn't," replied the pilot as the third engine exploded. "We're going to get help."

■ ■ ■

A parable to think about

Every night when a certain man came home from work, his children would run and jump into his arms, and ask, "Daddy, will you play with us? Please, daddy, will you?" And almost every night the man played with his son and daughter, sharing games, books and toys.

One night, the father was very, very tired. So instead of rushing to play with his children, he sat down in a comfortable chair, opened his newspaper, and began to read. As on every night, his children asked: "Daddy, will you play with us tonight?"

But on this night the man replied, "Oh, not tonight. I am so tired.

See STOP on Page 13

EDITORIAL POLICY The *Saipan Tribune* welcomes comments on any article, column, editorial, or topic that may be of interest to the public. Letters to the editor must include the name, address, and contact number of the contributor. Letters that are critical in nature should focus on issues, not personalities. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

No to alien registration by Federal Ombudsman

By STEPHEN C. WOODRUFF
Special to the Saipan Tribune

Stephen C. Woodruff is a veteran lawyer on the island known for his worker advocacy.

I would caution any alien in the alien in the CNMI who does not have an umbrella permit against going to the office of the Federal Ombudsman and participating in the "accounting" they have announced. In fact, I will state it more simply and directly: If you are an alien in the CNMI and do not have an umbrella permit in your possession, my advice is DO NOT go to the Ombudsman's office and register. Again, DO NOT go to the Ombudsman's office and register UNLESS you have an umbrella permit.

Instead, go see a competent attorney. Visit Micronesian Legal Services or any private lawyer on the island.

Also, all aliens have a right to know that registration with the Ombudsman's office is NOT mandatory. No one has to go to the Ombudsman's office to register.

There are many questions about this initiative suddenly announced and abruptly put into effect for the last two weeks of the year. It has been undertaken unilaterally by the Ombudsman's office without any prior consultation or coordination with the CNMI Bar Association, the CNMI government, worker and alien advocacy groups, or other elements of the community.

RISK

There is a very real risk that aliens lacking an umbrella permit who register with the Ombudsman's office could be setting themselves up as targets for deportation by U.S. immigration (ICE). The Ombudsman's office has provided no assurances that the information they collect will not be made available to ICE—and they probably cannot.

It is well established that law enforcement can lie to obtain information. Information so obtained in a non-custodial interview is legally admissible in judicial proceedings.

Consequently, it will be very difficult for an alien's lawyer in a removal proceeding to overcome an "admission" to being illegal (overstayer) made by an alien in the course of registration by the Ombudsman.

Regardless of what policies or intentions the Ombudsman's office may have, I am aware of no statute guaranteeing the confidentiality of the Ombudsman's records. Neither is there Statement Concerning Alien Registration By Federal Ombudsman December 12, 2009, any attorney-client relationship to be established by this registration process, so the information collected will not be protected by attorney-client privilege.

Even if the Ombudsman does not turn these records over to ICE voluntarily, ICE can probably demand it. Moreover, it does not inspire confidence that the Ombudsman allowed the names of purported overstayers to be published in the newspapers after its last urgent initiative.

DUBIOUS RECORD

The Ombudsman's office does not have a very good record for its recent ventures. On the weekend of November 21 and 22, the office did a major promotion staying open for the weekend and urging overstayers to come in for help. I have since taken to describing that operation as the Ombudsman's "Weekend Emergency Overstayer Center."

Over 600 people came in that weekend and signed up with the Ombudsman as "overstayers." The Ombudsman then took that list to Attorney General Ed Buckingham and asked him to issue the people on the list umbrella permits for overstayers on humanitarian grounds. The result was the AG's order granting "conditional umbrella permits for overstayers," published in the newspapers together with the names of every single person who signed up with the Ombudsman's office.

The Ombudsman got nothing whatsoever of value for the people put on that list—that is, nothing absent litigation by some private attorney on behalf of the individual sometime in the future. The Attorney General has backed off from his order by issuing a "joint statement" with the Department of Labor "clarifying" the matter of "conditional umbrella permits for overstayers."

No umbrella permit was ever issued based on the AG's order (although a goodly number of these people did get umbrella permits on independent grounds through the efforts of their private counsel who, incidentally, did not authorize their clients' placement on any overstayer list, including, specifically, the one generated by the Ombudsman's office).

The Department of Labor has subsequently said that no more umbrella permits will be issued. According to official CNMI government pronouncements, an umbrella permit is considered issued only when it is picked up and signed by the recipient. Inclusion of a person's name on an order means nothing unless the person is in physical possession of an umbrella permit. Even permits previously printed will not be issued; that is, cannot be picked up by the individual who would have been entitled to it prior to November 28. According to the CNMI government, such people simply do not hold umbrella permits. Right or wrong, that is the official CNMI government position.

On the other hand, publication of that list of purported overstayers placed every single one of them, many of whom are not properly classified as overstayers, in serious jeopardy of being dragged into ICE removal proceedings.

The day before the Ombudsman's office announced its Weekend Emergency Overstayers Center, the Ombudsman issued ambiguous, unfounded instructions to workers not to go to Labor without a copy of the Attorney General's delegation document, and further instructed workers to report to her anyone who said otherwise. The Ombudsman then refused to justify or explain this peculiar advice and outlandish edict despite being asked by members of the bar and others to do so.

SLOPPY LANGUAGE

The term "overstayer" is unfortunately used far too loosely. The confusion about the meaning and significance of this word may be largest among the very people the Ombudsman is asking to complete a form indicating ("if applicable") how long they have been overstaying in the CNMI.

A very large number of people included in the Attorney General's published order concerning "conditional umbrella permits for overstayers" were not as a matter of law properly classified as overstayers. They got so identified only because the Ombudsman's office encouraged them to sign up in its special weekend campaign. In doing so, Ombudsman caseworkers even went so far as to tell workers who were represented by attorneys that it did not matter and they should sign up anyway (without consulting with their counsel first). Under CNMI immigration law, every out-of-status alien not subject to a deportation order nevertheless could still cure their status. There were many ways to this, depending on the particular circumstances of the alien and (sometimes) the discretion of an appropriate official.

Moreover, an alien without a permit but with a pending case, for example, is not properly even considered out of status (although they might have experienced difficulty getting umbrella permits). Yet the Ombudsman's office improperly classified many such persons as "overstayers" and requested "conditional umbrella permits" for them from the Attorney General.

In the context of foreign national workers, the first distinction that needs to be made is between aliens who were on a Certified Overstayers List issued by the Department of Labor to the Division of Immigration and those who were not. Workers whose permits had expired but who were not on a certified overstayers list remained within the jurisdiction of the Department of Labor for transfer or authorization to seek new employment.

Despite the best efforts of the Department of Labor, even the certified overstay lists were not perfect. Albeit only a few, some names

See REGISTRATION on Page 14

Letters to the Editor

Who's next?

Did you feel the slight tremor last Tuesday? That was the shock from my jaw hitting the floor upon reading the headline of the article in *Marianas Variety* that Sam McPhetres' NMC contract was not renewed. Immediately after I covered my wound with a Band-Aid, I called a friend to tell him the news. His response was summarily succinct, "What the %@$&!" I couldn't have said it better. Both he and I had placed bets—against poker machine odds—that there was at least two or three other NMC faculty whose names were at the top of the contract non-renewal hit list, but not Sam's! We lost. We figured that the next head to roll would be a certain faculty member's, who in some circles is considered overly and overtly chatty with the press; and whose contract doesn't come up until sometime during the middle of next year. We thought we had time to hedge our bets. Boy, were we wrong.

So, let's see now; by my count (which I admit is based on incomplete data, since I've been out of the NMC loop for several months now) the attrition at NMC during this year alone totals 14 NMC faculty and staff whom I can reference by name or position. So far, according to my recollection, there have been three contract non-renewals (Mark Haag, Sam McPhetres, and mine), nine resignations (Eric Plinske, Wil Castro, Dr. Debra Cabrera, Roger Madriaga, Janice Tenorio, Rosaline Cepeda, Ivan Mereb, and the directors of the NMC Library and the NMC Bookstore, plus a staff person from the Office of Admissions and Records, whose names I'm unable to recall at this time), and one termination (Dr. So Gu Kim). This might be a new record, beating the 11 terminations handed out in one bunch several years back when Dr. Wright was NMC president. And the year is not quite over yet.

According to several of those who resigned (and who spoke with me personally), one of the primary reasons for resigning was given as a climatic analogy—they didn't like the "atmosphere." Or, in other words, the forecast for NMC today, tomorrow, and the foreseeable future calls for partial paranoia, with a continuing chance of precipitating heads across an unseasonably (unreasonably?) high-stress pressure front. Heads are falling, so make sure you bring along your umbrella when you visit the college. Chances are, you'll never know when the next one will come tumbling down.

Shortly after I began working at NMC in 2002, I started hearing references to "A Climate of Fear." I paid it no mind, figuring that as long as the job is done right, there should be nothing to worry about. Mr. McPhetres had been doing a great job, in my opinion as well as most, if not all, of his students. So, what happened? And how are they going to replace someone who has 30 years of experience and knowledge of the CNMI's political shenanigans? Oh, wait! I know! (I don't have to haul off and bean you upside the noggin with a bag of pugua for you to figure that one out too, do I?) Maybe this is all about spring cleaning the NMC household. But then again, that's traditionally seasonal; with the idea of keeping those things that are still usable and work well. Or, maybe this is more like the changing of the presidential cabinet after a transition in the White House.You know, out with the old, in with the new—although rumor has it that my replacement is chronologically several giant steps closer to his exit interview with Saint Peter than I am.

The president is right in implying that any reason or reasons for not renewing a contract is not for public consumption, just like the WASC reports from a public institution, supported by the public with public funds, are strictly confidential. The non-renewal clause is in the contract that all NMC employees must sign, which includes a statement saying that the non-renewal cannot be contested (although, contract/schmontract, NMC has been known to change the rules whenever it fits their whim). And, if the non-renewal of contract memo Mr. McPhetres' received looks anything like mine, it would have said something to the effect of "Thanks for all your years of hard work and dedication, but we don't want you here anymore. Bye-bye! And don't let the door hit you on the booty on your way out. Sincerely, …"

I wrote this several hours after reading the article, giving me some time to gather my thoughts. I realize that having this printed in the newspaper may possibly have an effect on any planned or contemplated non-renewals or resignations (voluntary or otherwise) at the college. Then again, maybe not. Sometimes it takes a while for the human mind to recognize patterns—which may go far in explaining a common aversion to math, or what happened with Hitler's Germany, or the seasonal rebuilding of trailer parks all over Tornado Alley, as if the owners still haven't figured out why that expanse of land got its name. Like the tornado and typhoon seasons, spring-cleaning comes once a year but who says that it must be restricted to any particular part of the year, or any given year? Personally, I would bet that the non-renewals and resignations will continue, although my recent gambling result should convince me that I would be better off playing video poker. Got any quarters I can borrow? Gotta try to make up my losses.

Sam McPhetres?!? Go figure. So, who is next? Your guess is as good as mine, if not better. And while you are guessing, see if you can figure out where they will find the replacements to fill the empty positions?

Pass the *pugua*, please.

Glenn D. Keaton
San Vicente, Saipan

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam Homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

The Weather

5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian

TODAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
Mostly sunny with isolated showers. Northeast winds 15 to 20 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers. Northeast winds 15 to 20 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.
▲86° ▼77°	▲86° ▼77°	▲86° ▼77°	▲86° ▼77°	▲86° ▼77°

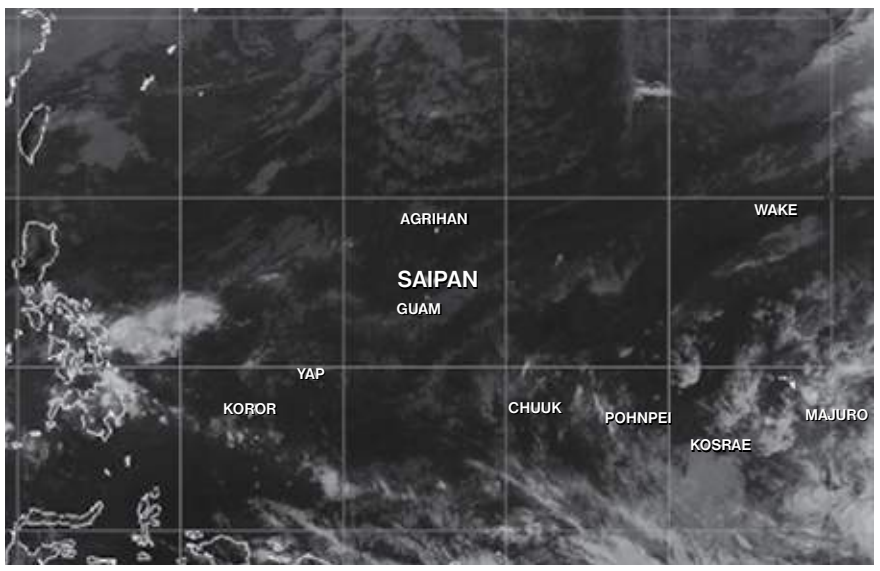
Micronesia

Guam and Rota	Cloudy	▲85	▼74
Palau	Sunny	▲89	▼78
Yap	Showers	▲86	▼77
Chuuk	Mostly Cloudy	▲90	▼77
Pohnpei	Windy	▲86	▼79
Kosrae	Mostly Sunny	▲88	▼76
Majuro	Showers	▲85	▼79

Around The Globe

Auckland	Cloudy	▲65	▼54
Beijing	Mostly Cloudy	▲31	▼50
Hong Kong	Mostly Sunny	▲76	▼63
Honolulu	Sunny	▲79	▼65
London	Showers	▲45	▼37
Los Angeles	Mostly Sunny	▲64	▼46
Manila	Rain	▲85	▼73
Melbourne	Mostly Sunny	▲73	▼51
Miami	Cloudy	▲83	▼71
New York	Cloudy	▲42	▼37
Osaka	Partly Sunny	▲51	▼39
Paris	Sunny	▲36	▼27
Pusan	Mostly Cloudy	▲46	▼26
Rome	Sunny	▲56	▼50
Salem	Dreary	▲43	▼38
San Francisco	Cloudy	▲57	▼44
Seoul	Cloudy	▲32	▼11
Tokyo	Mostly Sunny	▲51	▼34
Washington, DC	Cloudy	▲50	▼42

Yesterday's Satellite Image



PICTURE TIME: 1:00PM, SUNDAY, DECEMBER 13, 2009
Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

Convergent low-level winds are producing scattered showers and a few thunderstorms northwest of Yap within 60 miles of a line from 13N132E to 13N130E. A near-equatorial trough extends eastward from 2N130E to south of Kosrae at 1N163E then southeastward to end near EQ167E. Scattered showers are found south of Koror within 75 miles of a line from 6N133E to 3N141E and also along the equator to the south of a line from 2N168E to 1N177E. Tarawa lies on the northern edge of this area. A cold front extends southeastward from 25N160E to a circulation centered northeast of Wake Island near 24N168E then continues as a warm front to beyond the date line at 22N. Scattered showers and a few thunderstorms are occurring along and up to 400 miles north of this boundary. Trade-wind convergence is triggering scattered showers across the Marshall Islands in an area bounded by a line from 10N166E to 8N172E to 5N175E to 4N165E back to 10N166e.

Tides

Saipan Harbor		
12:06 AM Today	Low Tide:	0.3 Feet
7:22 AM Today	High Tide:	1.8 Feet
12:12 PM Today	Low Tide:	1.3 Feet
5:06 PM Today	High Tide:	1.9 Feet

Sunrise/Sunset

Today	6:34 AM	5:49 PM
Tuesday	6:35 AM	5:49 PM
Wednesday	6:36 AM	5:49 PM
Thursday	6:36 AM	5:49 PM
Friday	6:36 AM	5:49 PM

Moonrise/Moonset

Today	4:19 AM	3:50 PM
Tuesday	5:15 AM	4:40 PM
Wednesday	6:09 AM	5:32 PM
Thursday	7:01 AM	6:25 PM
Friday	7:50 AM	7:18 PM

GET YOUR PICTURES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS PUBLISHED—FOR FREE

The *Saipan Tribune* accepts for FREE publication the following:

PICTURES

- ISLAND SNAPSHOTS
  Birthdays, baptisms, christenings, family gatherings, reunions, club activities, and other community-related events.
- BIRTHDAY GREETINGS
  A way for families and friends to greet their loved ones, accompanied by a picture of the person celebrating his/her birthday.
- BUSINESS
  Corporate donations, volunteer work, promotions, granting of awards, team-building exercises, meetings and other activities by members of the business community.
- SAMU'T SARI
  Pictures from the islands' Filipino community, primarily focusing on Filipino activities, gatherings, get-togethers, volunteer work, etc.
- TRAVELOGUE
  Pictures of off-island travels. Contributors may submit up to 10 pictures for consideration.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- COMMUNITY BRIEFS
  Announcements of upcoming activities of organizations, community clubs, government agencies, and private companies.
- CAMPUS BULLETIN
  Announcements of upcoming activities in public and private schools, as well as calendar of activities. May include PTSA meetings, enrollment procedures.

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For pictures:

- Photos should be original and not copyrighted. Contributors must have the right to allow the *Saipan Tribune* to publish the pictures.
- Digital pictures should be high-resolution (minimum of 800kb).
- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and phone number.
- Photos must have been taken in the last two months.
- For birthday greetings, must be submitted no later than 12 noon of the previous day to make it to next day's edition.

For announcements:

- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and a phone number.
- Must be submitted no later than 12 noon to make it to next day's edition.

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- Fax: (670) 235-3740
- Mail: PMB 34, P.O. Box 10001, Saipan, CNMI 96950
- Drop off: 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan
  To check if contributions are received, call (670) 235-6397, 235-2440, 235-8747

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- The *Saipan Tribune* will decide how often community announcements are going to be published.
- For Travelogue, the *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to choose which pictures to publish.

NMI CRIME STOPPERS

Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:

- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any PTI cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.com

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FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF DECEMBER 12, 2009

DEPARTURES

SAIPAN-ROTA (ROP)

C09597	11:30am	12:05pm	1, 7

ROTA (ROP)-GUAM

C09597	12:40pm	1:10pm	1, 7

SAIPAN-GUAM

C09317	4:25am	5:15am	Daily
C09313	8:30am	9:20am	Daily
C09597	11:30am	1:10pm	1, 7 via ROP
C09601	12:20pm	1:10pm	4, 5
C09603	3:15pm	4:05pm	Daily
C09605	6:20pm	7:10pm	Daily
C09599	9:20pm	10:10pm	Daily

SAIPAN-NAGOYA (NGO)

NW287	6:00am	7:30pm	Daily via NRT

SAIPAN-NARITA (NRT)

NW287	6:00am	8:40am	Daily
NW297	4:45pm	7:30pm	Daily

SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)

OZ608	3:20am	6:50am	1, 5

SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)

OZ604	2:10am	6:00am	1
OZ604	2:40am	6:30am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7
OZ606	3:20pm	7:00pm	2, 4, 6, 7

SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG)

FM844	2:50am	5:40am	2, 6

SAIPAN-GUANGZHOU (CAN)

CZ3008	3:30am	6:40am	2, 6

SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)

OZ604/701	2:10am	11:50am	1 via ICN
OZ604/701	2:40am	11:50am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
OZ604/703	2:50am	11:25am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
OZ608/705	3:20am	1:30am+1	1, 5 via PUS
C09603/933	3:15pm	9:40pm	Daily via GUM
C09605/933	6:20pm	9:40pm	Daily via GUM
C09599/PR111	9:20pm	7:50am+1	1, 3, 5, 6, 7 via GUM

SAIPAN-HONG KONG

OZ604/721	2:10am	12:00pm	1 via ICN
OZ604/721	2:40am	12:00pm	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
OZ606/749	3:20pm	11:00pm	4, 6, 7 via ICN

ARRIVALS

ROTA (ROP)-SAIPAN

C09598	3:10am	3:45am	5, 6
C09312	1:20pm	1:55pm	6

GUAM-ROTA (ROP)

C09598	2:00am	2:30am	5, 6
C09312	12:10pm	12:40pm	6

GUAM-SAIPAN

C09316	2:00am	2:30am	1, 2, 3, 4, 7
C09598	2:00am	3:45am	5, 6 via ROP
C09596	7:00am	7:50am	Daily
C09600	10:05am	10:55am	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 7
C09312	12:10pm	1:55pm	6 via ROP
C09602	1:50pm	2:40pm	1, 4, 5, 7
C09604	4:50pm	5:40pm	Daily
C09606	8:00pm	8:50pm	Daily

NAGOYA (NGO)-SAIPAN

NW288	12:05pm	1:20am+1	Daily via NRT

NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN

NW298	10:05am	2:50pm	Daily
NW288	8:45pm	1:20am+1	Daily

BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN

OZ607	9:00pm	2:10am+1	4, 7

SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN

OZ605	9:00am	2:20pm	2, 4, 6, 7
OZ603	7:40pm	1:10am+1	7
OZ603	8:10pm	1:30am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6

SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN

FM843	7:15pm	1:50am+1	1, 5

GUANGZHOU (CAN)-SAIPAN

CZ3007	7:30pm	2:40am+1	1, 5

MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN

OZ716/605	12:30am	2:20pm	4 via ICN
OZ706/607	3:35am	2:10am+1	4, 7 via PUS
OZ702/603	1:10pm	1:10am+1	7 via ICN
OZ702/603	1:10pm	1:30am+1 via ICN	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6
PR110/C09596	10:10pm	7:50am+1 via GUM	1, 3, 5, 6, 7
C0934/9596	11:10pm	7:50am+1	Daily via GUM
OZ704/605	11:55pm	2:20pm+1	1, 3, 5, 6 via ICN

HONG KONG-SAIPAN

OZ724/605	12:30am	2:20pm	2,4,6,7 via ICN
OZ750/605	1:00am	2:20pm	2,4,6,7 via ICN
OZ722/603	1:30pm	1:10am+1	7 via ICN
OZ722/603	1:30pm	1:30am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN

Editor's Note: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); CO: Continental; FM: Shanghai Airlines; PR: Philippine Airlines; NW: Northwest; OZ: Asiana
ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)

FREEDOM AIR FLIGHT SCHEDULE

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
Guam-Rota			
FRE 100	7:00am	7:30am	Daily
Rota-Saipan			
FRE 100	7:50am	8:20am	Daily
Saipan-Rota			
FRE 200	9:00am	9:30am	Daily
Rota-Guam			
FRE 200	9:50am	10:15am	Daily
Guam-Rota			
FRE 300	4:00pm	4:30pm	Daily
Rota-Saipan			
FRE 300	4:50pm	5:25pm	Daily
Saipan-Rota			
FRE 400	6:00pm	6:30pm	Daily
Rota-Guam			
FRE 400	6:45pm	7:15pm	Daily
Saipan-Tinian			
FRE 101	6:45am	6:55am	Daily
FRE 103	7:30am	7:40am	Daily
FRE 105	8:00am	8:10am	Daily
FRE 107	8:40am	8:50am	Daily
FRE 109*	9:10am	9:20am	Daily
FRE 111*	10:45am	10:55am	Daily

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
FRE 113	11:40am	11:50am	Daily
FRE 115	1:00pm	1:10pm	Daily
FRE 117	2:30pm	2:40pm	Daily
FRE 119	4:00pm	4:10pm	Daily
FRE 121	4:40pm	4:50pm	Daily
FRE 123 *	5:40pm	5:50pm	Daily
FRE 125 *	6:00pm	6:10pm	Daily
Tinian-Saipan w/ connecting flights to Rota or Guam**			
FRE 102	7:05am	7:15am	Daily
FRE 104	7:50am	8:00am	Daily
FRE 106**	8:20am	8:30am	Daily
FRE 108**	9:00am	9:10am	Daily
FRE 110	10:00am	10:10am	Daily
FRE 112	11:05am	11:15am	Daily
FRE 114	12:00pm	12:10pm	Daily
FRE 116	1:30pm	1:40pm	Daily
FRE 118	2:50pm	3:00pm	Daily
FRE 120**	4:20pm	4:30pm	Daily
FRE 122**	5:00pm	5:10pm	Daily
FRE 124	6:05pm	6:15pm	Daily
FRE 126	6:20pm	6:30pm	Daily

Tiempun Inafamauleg

By JOHN S. DELROSARIO JR.
SPECIAL TO THE SAIPAN TRIBUNE

Dispues de didug na estrakadan politika, i man-gana ha petsige kareraña ruminueba finaposña pot para u aregla yan adelanta asuntu siha `nai masge attensioña.

I dimalas, libianu ha aksepta disposision publiku ya guiya lokue u petsige planuña dimas de u sige humoflag fina chetnudan siha gi tatautauña. Yangin para u guaha sensian imbidiu, pues ti umaya ennau na maña yan finattun tiempun haanen gupot siha. Estague na tiempu `nai ta limienda fina chinatsaga siha ya ta abiba pas gi entre todus gi selebrasion finattun i Niño Jesus.

Tat ti h faposgue deste echuyu tautau gi taduñg na halum tanu chinatsaga, pineble, irida, ti amtiyun na chetnu siha, yan yayas na matan mañainahu umuma kiluus niha gi rimulinon pineble.

Lau yangin un` arestreha finapos i Nanalibre, hana fanhomlu i man-lañgo, hanae` esperansa i mamoble, yan hana` fan manlie i man-bachet siha. Gi uttimu, makastiga yan mapunu pot mañgilisyanu siha gi enteru elmundu.

Este na pisun hinimidde huna setbe gi konsiderasion i umisagueyu na prohimuhu. Diberas, tat mas gefsaga na siñiente i un` asi`i i prohimumu maseha sumen makat na aminasu pat chechu traision hinasñgune hau antes.

Gi uttimu, inatileg fasumu sa` un` asi`igue ya mas pas yan antao hinasomu dispues de un` guot kanaiña ya in` talun umestablesi inafamauleg. Magahet na sigeyu chumaleg `nai hu soda na ni unuyu umapunta kabesanten enteru i tanu. De dios mihu!

■ ■ ■

Bien Biahe
Nanan Biata

Ha gacha hit triniste gi finatai Tan Biata Mendiola guine gi mapos na semana. Un` amku ni hagas hu hanan kumonbetsasiuni pot kuttura yan tradision natibu. Un` dañkulu sinetsothu na ti hu chogue este. Hagas malaguyu nu` ayu na konbetasion, kontodu `nai lalala i asaguaña as Tun Tomas Mendiola.

Mattuyu gi lugat niha giya Muchoñg antes de u mahatsa i Rota Resort Hotel. Ha tutuhon i defuntu humatsa dikiki na fina` guma natibu pot para u mostra gi manatatte taimanu gima antigu na Chamorro. Gi un` banda, guaha hagas tupu` antigu ya magahet na esta fuguyu `nai hu huñgog ekun pasun tautau `nai tumunog para u fan lupug hanum. Hu lie` lokue taimanu hechuran enteru guma natibu deste lugan achu gi sanpapa yan haligen latte.

Si Yuus Maase yan bien benidu para si Tan Biata yan Tun Tomas pot todus i man-mames siha na memorias yan sattun na finanaguen niha gi manatatte. Nihe ta hahassu i dos amku gi tinayuyotta guine gi haanen gupot siha.

■ ■ ■

Sensian Hinimidde

Sensian imbidiu gi korasonta hafañagu imbarasus minalaet `nai todu biradamu mampus unna` ya hululu i sensian tinailaye. Pot ihemplo: Un` midi hau kontra i prohimumu gi hafa suetteña. Kumeke ileghu, un` kuestiotiona hafa na guiya suette ya hagu dimalas gi mismu sakudida. Un` tutuhun dumiseha baba kontra guiya pot linayu`.

Mas pas yangin un` diseha lokue mauleg pot suetteña. Dispues, fangagau para hagu sa` seguruyu na i Saina lokue magof inayuda hau. Buente i prohimu hagas manayuyot mismu. Dimas de un` layu, dimu papa` yan un` fangagau lokue sa` buente hagas un` u`upus tinayuyot gi haanimu. Nae` bendision i prohimumu gi suetteña.

Na suha sensian midision: Hafa na guiya ya ti hagu sa` siempre dibuenamente un`soda lokue suettemu. Si Yuus Maase`!

Letter to the Editor

Political appointees reshuffle

Knowledge is power.
—Sir Frances Bacon, English scientist, 1561–1626

Recently the governor announced his plan to re-examine the offices of his political appointees and make changes based on four criteria. The criteria being: Are my appointees; qualified, competent, loyal, and ethical? A fifth criteria must be added. Is this position necessary to the public interest or could some other appointee assume these duties?

Did you know that the governor has appointee power over more than 38 positions? Some of these positions may be constitutionally mandated and others may be required by the federal regulations applicable for obtaining those federal funds.

But considering our serious financial deficit, the governor could eliminate or not fill those locally–funded, political-appointee positions that are duplicative or unnecessary. This is the ideal time to trim the fat from the Executive Branch. Using our limited financial resources wisely helps all of us. Governor Fitial, I appeal to you. Make history! Eliminate all unnecessary offices or ask them to be filled, without salary, voluntarily. JFK said, "Ask not what your country can do for you, but what you can do for your country."

To find out how many jobs are up for gubernatorial review, I went to the Executive Branch Web site at www.cnmigov.net

Below, as listed on the governor's Web site, are the positions for which the governor makes political appointments. To identify the current occupants of these positions go to the Web site above. Knowing who is in charge of these government agencies is vital knowledge for any caring, educated citizen of the CNMI. These political appointees directly impact your life and are being paid for with your tax dollars. Possibly some of these dollars could be spent more wisely by paying direct public service providers, such as teachers, nurses, policemen, or CUC generator maintenance personnel,

Department Directors

- Finance
- Community and Cultural Affairs
- Department of Labor
- Lands and Natural Resources
- Commerce
- Public Works
- Public Safety
- Attorney General
- Public Health
- Public Lands
- Public Defender
- Vocational Rehabilitation

Heads of Divisions/ Offices

- Administration
- Public Information and Protocol
- Disability Policy and Programs
- Public Liaison
- Programs and Legislative Review
- Indigenous Affairs
- Women's Affairs
- Carolinian Affairs
- Youth Affairs
- Military Liaison and Veterans Affairs
- Division of Environmental Quality
- Office of Personnel Management
- Coastal Resource Management
- Emergency Management Office

Special Assistant Positions

- Senior Policy Advisor
- Department of Corrections
- Office of Homeland Security
- Trade Relations and Economic Affairs
- Criminal Justice Planning Agency
- Workforce Investment Agency
- Special Advisor (In what area? It doesn't say)
- Education
- Geothermal and Renewable Energy Resources
- Geothermal Energy

I write about CNMI issues in an attempt to continue the education of our citizens. Knowledge is power. Participatory democracy only operates effectively if the citizens care and are informed. If you care and wish to exert your power within this community, don't let your only government-input be voting. I urge you to visit the Executive Branch Web site at www.cnmigov.net the legislative Web site at www.cnmileg.gov.mp and the judiciary Web site at www.justice.gov.mp. Tell our leaders, often, what you want and why. Visit the Executive Branch Web site before the inauguration, Jan. 11, 2010, and advise our governor on which political appointees he should keep or what positions you think are unnecessary. You could even nominate some replacement appointees or offer testimony for current office holders who you think are providing excellent public service. But, maybe, just maybe, we have too many chiefs and not enough Indians. What do you think?

Roger N. Ludwick
Sadog Tasi, Saipan

PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
CNMI GOVERNMENT
REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS
RFP10-EMO-023

SUBMISSION: JANUARY 04, 2010 • TIME: 2:00 P.M.

"CONSULTING SERVICES FOR THE UPDATE OF THE CNMI STANDARD STATE MITIGATION PLAN FOR THE EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT OFFICE"

THE RFP PACKAGE MAY BE OBTAINED AT THE EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT OFFICE, PLANNING SECTION LOCATED ON CAPITAL HILL, SAIPAN DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

A PRE-PROPOSAL MEETING IS SCHEDULED FOR DECEMBER 18, 2009 AT 10:00 A.M. AT THE EMO CONFERENCE ROOM. QUESTIONS REGARDING THIS RFP SHOULD BE ADDRESSED TO MS. FLORENCE S. CALVO, PLANNING SUPERVISOR VIA E-MAIL TO fscalvo@cnmiemo.gov.mp or fscalvo@gmail.com NO LATER THAN 4:30 P.M., LOCAL TIME, DECEMBER 22, 2009.

THIS IS A FEDERALLY FUNDED PROJECT; AS SUCH, LOCAL PREFERENCE IS NOT AVAILABLE BECAUSE IT'S USE IS PROHIBITED BY FEDERAL LAW GRANTING FUNDING FOR THIS PROJECT.

/s/ **JOAQUIN P. OMAR**
DEPUTY SPECIAL ASSISTANT
FOR EMO/OHS

/s/ **HERMAN S. SABLAN**
DIRECTOR, P&S

PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
CNMI GOVERNMENT
REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS
2010-CDA-03RFP

CLOSING DATE: MONDAY, JANUARY 11, 2010 • TIME: 10:00 A.M.

"OFFICE SPACE FOR CDA TINIAN BRANCH"

COPIES OF THE PROPOSAL SPECIFICATION MAY BE PICKED UP AT THE COMMONWEALTH DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY SAIPAN OFFICE, GUALO RAI WAKIN'S BLDG. OR THE CDA OFFICE TINIAN AT THE KING'S BLDG. DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS OR BY FACSIMILE REQUEST TO 235-7147.

PREFERENCE IS AVAILABLE TO U.S. CITIZENS OR PERMANENT RESIDENTS AS PER PUBLIC LAW 15-95 AND AS FURTHER AMENDED BY PUBLIC LAW 15-118 AND MUST BE SUBMITTED WITH THE PROPOSAL IF PREFERENCE IS CLAIMED.

/s/ **MANUEL A. SABLAN**
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

/s/ **HERMAN S. SABLAN**
DIRECTOR, P&S

STOP

From Page 10

I just don't have the strength to play with you tonight. You understand, don't you?"

The children did understand that their father was tired, but they really wanted him to play with them. So they kept asking. But their father's reply did not change. Finally to keep his son and daughter busy—and to get a little peace and quiet from their never-ending questions—the father tore a whole page out of his newspaper. Printed on the page was a map of the whole world.

The father took the scissors and cut the map into many small pieces. Then he said to his children: "Here is a puzzle of the map of the world. Why don't you go and put the puzzle together?" The father thought that the children would be gone for a long time, but they were back in a few minutes.

The father was amazed, and he asked: "You finished the puzzle already? How did you do it? The map of the world is so large and difficult. How did you put it together so quickly?" The little girl replied: "It was easy."

And her brother added: "On the back of the picture of the world was a picture of a person. We just put the person together, and the world fell right into place!"

■ ■ ■

Hopefully the above will bring a brief smile to your face. We now have entered into one of our most blessed and joyous times of the year. 2009 has been a turbulent year for me and perhaps for many of you. I am already making plans to ensure that 2010 brings better fortune and better happiness.

We need Christmas. We need to reflect where we have been and what we have been doing this year. We need to set new goals guided by well-defined purposes. During the remaining few days left, make the time to renew old friends, catch up on all the things we promised to do. Finally when 2010 comes, let's grasp it dearly and make it be the year we have been planning for. A happy holiday greetings to everyone!

IT&E
Life in Motion

Systems Administrator Positions

IT&E is looking for qualified Systems Administrators to work in our Information Management Department. Applicants must have the following qualifications:

Systems Administrator - Call Control

Qualifications:
- Bachelor's Degree in Computer Science (or related field) or 4 years database work experience
- Minimum 4 years of progressive experience in PC and LAN/WAN networks
- Minimum 2 years of progressive experience in Windows Server operating and Microsoft Accessor equivalent database experience
- Unix/Linux experience, and knowledge of FoxPro and C programming desired
- Must be willing to provide on-call support as needed
- Effective communication skills

Systems Administrator - Network LAN/WAN

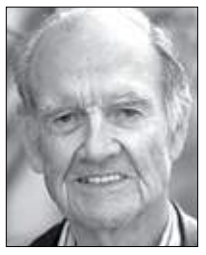
Qualifications:
- Bachelor's Degree in Computer Science (or related field) or 4 years network experience
- Minimum 4 years of progressive experience in LAN/WAN networks and Windows Server operating systems
- Minimum 2 years of progressive experience in network equipment to include routers, switches, firewalls in support of data/voice communications
- Unix/Linux experience desired
- Must be willing to provide on-call support as needed
- Effective communication skills

Human Resource Office
IT&E
P. 0. Box 500306
Saipan, MP 96950
670-234-6600

IT&E is an Equal Employment Opportunity Affirmative Action Employer. Women and minorities are encouraged to apply. Application must be received by IT&E Human Resources on or before December 18, 2009.

A sharp turn toward another Vietnam

By GEORGE MCGOVERN
Special to The Washington Post



George McGovern, a former senator from South Dakota and a decorated World War II combat veteran, was the Democratic nominee for president in 1972.

As a U.S. senator during the 1960s, I agonized over the badly mistaken war in Vietnam. After doing all I could to save our troops and the Vietnamese people from a senseless conflict, I finally took my case to the public in my presidential campaign in 1972. Speaking across the nation, I told audiences that the only upside of the tragedy in Vietnam was that its enormous cost in lives and dollars would keep any future administration from going down that road again.

I was wrong. Today, I am astounded at the Obama administration's decision to escalate the equally mistaken war in Afghanistan, and as I listen to our talented young president explain why he is adding 30,000 troops—beyond the 21,000 he had added already—I can only think: another Vietnam. I hope I am incorrect, but history tells me otherwise.

Presidents John Kennedy, Lyndon Johnson and Richard Nixon all believed that the best way to save the government in Saigon and defeat Ho Chi Minh and his Viet Cong insurgents was to send in U.S. troops. But the insurgency only grew stronger, even after we had more than 500,000 troops fighting and dying in Vietnam.

We have had tens of thousands of troops in Afghanistan for several years, and we have employed an even larger number of mercenaries (or "contractors," as they're called these days). As in Vietnam, the insurgent forces are stronger than ever, and the Afghan government is as corrupt as the one we backed in Saigon.

Why do we send young Americans to risk life and limb on behalf of such worthless regimes? The administration says we need to fight al-Qaida in Afghanistan. But the major al-Qaida forces are in Pakistan.

The insurgency in Afghanistan is led by the Taliban. Its target is its own government, not our government. Its only quarrel with us is that its members see us using our troops and other resources to prop up a government they despise. Adding more U.S. forces will fuel the Taliban further.

Starting in 1979, the Soviets tried to control events in Afghanistan for nearly a decade. They lost 15,000 troops, and an even larger number of soldiers were crippled or wounded. Their treasury was exhausted, and the Soviet Union collapsed. A similar fate has befallen other powers that have tried to work their will on Afghanistan's collection of mountain warlords and tribes.

We have the best officers and combat troops in the world, but they are weary after nearly a decade of fighting in Iraq and Afghanistan. Why waste these fine soldiers any longer?

Even if we had a good case for a war in Afghanistan, we simply cannot afford to wage it. With a $12 trillion debt and a serious economic recession, this is not a time for unnecessary wars abroad. We should bring our soldiers home before any more of them are killed or wounded—and before our national debt explodes.

In 1964, Johnson asked several senators who were not running for reelection that year if we would campaign for him. He assured those of us who were opposed to the war in Vietnam that he had no plans to expand the U.S. presence. Johnson won the election in a landslide, telling voters he sought no wider war. "We are not about to send American boys nine or 10 thousand miles away from home to do what Asian boys ought to be doing for themselves," he assured during his campaign.

But once elected, Johnson began to pour in more troops until American forces reached exceeded 500,000. All told, more than 58,000 Americans died in Vietnam, and many more were crippled in mind and body. This is to say nothing of the nearly 2 million Vietnamese who died under U.S. bombardment.

Johnson had a brilliant record in domestic affairs, but Vietnam choked his dream of a Great Society. The war had become unbearable to so many Americans—civilian and military—that the landslide victor of 1964 did not seek reelection four years later.

Obama has the capacity to be a great president; I just hope that Afghanistan will not tarnish his message of change. After half a century of Cold War and hot wars, it is time to rebuild our great and troubled land. By closing down the conflicts in Iraq and Afghanistan, we can divert the vast sums being spent there to revitalizing our own nation.

In 1972, I called on my fellow citizens to "Come home, America." Today, I commend these words to our new president.

REGISTRATION

From Page 11

of people who should not have been on the list remained on it when it was certified to the Division of Immigration, Office of the Attorney General. Such errors remained correctable by the Director of Immigration.

Until November 28, 2009, the Director of Immigration had authority to waive exit for persons on the certified overstayers list or persons applying for a non-worker status. In certain cases, waiver of exit may have been a matter of right. Until the Attorney General's mid- November delegation document, the Director of Immigration had been exercising this exit waiver authority in cooperation with the Department of Labor as part of the umbrella permit process.

Additionally, there were special classes of workers whose status was protected under the Governor's Protocol in furtherance of particularly compelling public interests and values. Failure to understand these and many other distinctions results in the misclassification of aliens as allegedly being "overstayers."

TROUBLING FORM

The form the Ombudsman's office is using for this registration asks nothing about family situation, children born here, role in the community, employment history, or other strong reasons for improved status except length of stay.

It asks for information not identified by the CNRA for the mandated report to Congress, such as CNMI classification, CNMI status ("legal/illegal"), and years overstaying ("if applicable").

It asks for information on job skills and employability only in the most cursory fashion—by asking for "occupational category."

If the Ombudsman's office were truly working to produce a report that would lead to improved status for long-term alien residents of the CNMI, it would collect the kind of information that is persuasive in supporting improved status. It is not.

FALSE URGENCY

The Ombudsman's notice was put out on Thursday for publication on Friday. The program is to start on Monday to run for two weeks in the middle of which is Christmas. The announcement presents a rushed program and carries with a "must complete" character and urgency. The notice concludes with an urgent warning: "There will be no exceptions to the December 30th deadline."

But the report this operation purportedly is intended to support is not due until May 8, 2010. If it is really useful or needed, there is plenty of time to do it right, in an orderly, respectful, and transparent manner. Even if we concede that DOI needs some months to digest the data and work up its report to Congress, this data collection could easily be planned and organized in a sensible fashion to be carried out, for example, during the month of January—and still leave plenty of time to meet the May 8 deadline.

The only possible explanation for this false urgency is an attempt to get people to come in and bare their souls to the Ombudsman's office before they have a chance to think about it or talk to anyone about it.

LOGISTICAL NIGHTMARE

The Ombudsman's notice calls upon "all aliens" "physically present in the CNMI," excepting only green card holders, to report to her office between now and December 30, 2009. Taken at face value, this means she proposes to have something like 30,000 people register with her office in the space of 10 working days. That is more than five people every minute having to park at the Marianas Heights II building, go all the way up to the second floor by way of the stairs or the elevator, and be processed through an office with a reception area of less than 90 square feet and only about 4 feet of counter space. Brilliant plan.

LACK OF AUTHORITY

It is not only that registration with the Ombudsman's office could put an alien without an umbrella permit at risk of being targeted by ICE for removal (deportation). I believe this venture by the Ombudsman's office is contrary to the federalization law—Public Law 110-229 or CNRA. The CNRA expressly provides for registration—by DHS: "*The Secretary of Homeland Security may require any alien present in the Commonwealth on or after the transition period effective date to register with the Secretary in such a manner, and according to such schedule, as he may in his discretion require.*"

What the statute designates to DHS in its discretion cannot properly be usurped by DOI. The CNRA does not authorize the Department of Interior or its Labor Ombudsman's Office to conduct a registration of aliens in the CNMI. I believe this is why the public announcement of the venture describes it as an "accounting" rather than a "registration." However, the form designed by the Ombudsman's office for the task is more forthright. It is captioned: "Alien Registration Form." And as is often the case, the true essence is quickly apprehended by ordinary people. On the street and in the blogs, the term "registration" is prevalent.

INFIDELITY TO ASSERTED JUSTIFICATION

The notice states that the purpose (and, implicitly, authority) for the "accounting of aliens in the CNMI" by the Ombudsman's office is to comply with the requirement of the CNRA that the Secretary of Interior make a report to the U.S. Congress by May 8, 2010, concerning "the number of aliens within the [CNMI]" and "to make recommendations regarding the long-term status of aliens who were physically present in the CNMI on November 28, 2009."

Let's examine that proposition. The law states:

"(h) REPORT ON NONRESIDENT GUESTWORKER POPULATION- The Secretary of the Interior, in consultation with the Secretary of Homeland Security, and the Governor of the Commonwealth, shall report to the Congress not later than [May 8, 2010]. The report shall include--

(1) the number of aliens residing in the Commonwealth;

(2) a description of the legal status (under Federal law) of such aliens;

(3) the number of years each alien has been residing in the Commonwealth;

(4) the current and future requirements of the Commonwealth economy for an alien workforce; and

(5) *such recommendations to the Congress, as the Secretary may deem appropriate, related to whether or not the Congress should consider permitting lawfully admitted guest workers lawfully residing in the Commonwealth on such enactment date to apply for long-term status under the immigration and nationality laws of the United States.*"

Here are some of the problems with what the law says and the Ombudsman's venture and representations about what that office is doing:

The law expressly requires that the report be made "in consultation with the Secretary of Homeland Security, and the Governor of the Commonwealth." There has been no consultation or coordination with the CNMI Governor regarding this registration venture by the Ombudsman.

Moreover, the consultation with Homeland Security requirement makes it almost mandatory that the Ombudsman share all the registration data collected with DHS. Under such circumstances, it is almost impossible to keep this information from ICE.

The Ombudsman's rushed registration venture is a particularly inefficient and unreliable means of getting a handle on "the number of aliens residing in the Commonwealth." It is also unnecessary for this purpose. There already is information on this subject—and there is a real census (which will provide actual, genuinely reliable data) soon to be conducted.

The Ombudsman's venture will provide absolutely no information whatsoever on the legal status under Federal law of aliens registering. Instead, it asks them for information on their CNMI status and to confess to being overstayers "if applicable."

The fact is the present status under Federal law of almost every alien present in the CNMI other than green card holders (who the Ombudsman exempts from registration despite the express requirement of the CNRA that the report include the total number of aliens in the CNMI and a breakdown of their legal status under Federal law) is "present without admission" on account of the only very recent transition to Federal immigration control. (It also may be noted that when Congress enacted the law it was anticipated that there would be another six months of experience with the Federal system in the CNMI before the report came due.)

The Ombudsman's registration venture will provide absolutely no information at all on "the current and future requirements of the Commonwealth economy for an alien workforce."

The law does NOT "order" the "U.S. Department of Interior to make recommendations regarding the long-term status of aliens who were physically present in the CNMI on November 28, 2009" as stated in the Ombudsman's notice. The law instructs the Secretary of Interior to make such recommendations on the subject as he or she deems appropriate—which could be no recommendation at all. The law does not do what the Ombudsman said in her notice it does.

Contrary to the Ombudsman's notice, the law does NOT say anything about aliens "physically present in the CNMI on November 28, 2009." The law talks very precisely about "lawfully admitted guest workers lawfully residing in the Commonwealth on [May 8, 2008]." The Ombudsman's current registration venture focuses NOT AT ALL on this clearly identified particular class of aliens in the CNMI.

The law does NOT "order" that recommendations be made regarding long-term status for aliens in the CNMI. The law simply invites the Secretary of Interior to make such recommendations as he or she sees fit as to "whether or not the Congress should consider permitting" a certain specified class of aliens in the CNMI "to apply for long-term status under the immigration and nationality laws of the United States." This is a very different thing. The Ombudsman is turning the statutory language into bait to lure alien workers—and that was never the intent of Congress.

As the old saying goes, "There's something rotten in Denmark."

CNMI to get $409K in historic preservation grants

A total of $46.5M to go to states, territories

WASHINGTON, D.C.—The Department of the Interior's National Park Service is awarding $46.5 million in historic preservation grants to 59 states and U.S. territories, according to Interior Secretary Ken Salazar Friday

Of the amount, the CNMI will get $409,971; American Samoa, $395,634; FSM, $408,430; Guam, $408,291; Palau, $236,704; Hawaii, $571,458; Puerto Rico, $640,462; Marshall Islands, $236,704; and the U.S. Virgin Islands, $414,187.

"Preserving and celebrating our nation's rich history is a vital part of the Department of the Interior's mission," Salazar said. "These grants from the Historic Preservation Fund will assist state, tribal and local governments in telling their stories while providing both cultural and economic benefits to their communities and to the nation as a whole."

Last year, projects funded through the Federal Historic Preservation Tax Program generated 67,705 jobs, created 10,392 housing units, and led to more than $5.64 billion of private investments in the rehabilitation of commercial historic properties, Salazar noted.

The National Park Service will administer the grants through a fund established under the National Historic Preservation Act. The grants can be used through September of 2011 for historic property inventories, resource protection planning, nominations for the National Register of Historic Places, monitoring Federal historic preservation requirements, technical assistance for those seeking to preserve and protect historic resources, assisting local government preservation programs, and acquisition or development of historic properties.

The funds will be distributed to all 50 states, the District of Columbia, the U.S. territories, the Federated States of Micronesia, the Republic of the Marshall Islands, and the Republic of Palau based on a formula that considers the size, population, and number of historic properties of each area. ***(PR)***

Q&A Umbrella permit for foreign students

Question: Am I required to hold an umbrella permit in order to remain in the CNMI?

Answer: No you are not. You are allowed to maintain your status as long as you have a valid CNMI Foreign Student Permit. However, prior to the expiration of your permit (which should be prior to November 28, 2011), you will have to apply for a foreign student visa through a Student and Exchange Visitor Information System (SEVIS) certified school or program. It is highly recommended that you visit the U.S. Immigration and Custom Enforcement website http://www.ice.gov and follow the link to SEVP (Student and Exchange Visitor Program) http://www.ice.gov/sevis/index.htm for more info.

Q: As a holder of a foreign student umbrella permit, am I entitled to live and maintain my status in the CNMI until November 28, 2011?

A: No you are not. Umbrella permits are conditional in nature and will only be valid through November 28, 2011 if you maintain compliance with the requirements of the issuance of the permit. For example, if your regular CNMI-issued foreign student permit expires on April 30, 2010, in order for you to qualify to maintain your CNMI permit status through November 28, 2011, you are still required to renew your permit with the Department of Commerce by paying annual renewal fee for extension to April 30, 2011, and – upon expiration, a prorated application fee that extends your permit through November 28, 2011 only if you maintain compliance with the permit requirements.

However, if you wish to live and maintain your foreign student status in the CNMI beyond November 28, 2011, you will have to apply for a foreign student visa through a SEVIS certified school or program.

Q: Am I required to wait until November 2011 prior to applying for a foreign student visa with SEVIS?

A: No you are not. Foreign students are free to immediately apply with a SEVIS certified school or program.

Q: I am an existing foreign student but was only issued a temporary umbrella permit on or prior to November 27, 2009. When can I expect to receive an actual, longer term permit (identification card)?

A: The Department of Labor will have actual permits printed and ready for distribution by January 4, 2010. Provided your application for new or renewal was processed and approved by Commerce, a permit will be forthcoming.

Q: I am a new foreign student who was issued an umbrella permit but not a regular CNMI permit prior to November 27, 2009. Am I going to receive two permits?

A: Yes. You should have an umbrella permit and a regular CNMI Foreign Student permit (ID card) that will be available for pick up by January 4, 2010. Please visit Commerce's Foreign Investment Office at that time for the status of your permit.

Q: I did not pick up my umbrella permit by the November 27, 2009 deadline. Can I still pick up my umbrella permit from Commerce?

A: No you cannot. If you failed to pick up your umbrella permit prior to November 28, 2009, you have essentially forfeited your opportunity.

Q: Am I mandated to hold an umbrella permit? What is its purpose?

A: No. The purpose of the umbrella permit is to provide for a conditional permit which gives you the option to renew with the CNMI or converting to an E2 CNMI visa prior to November 28, 2011.

Q: I do not have an umbrella permit, and I would like to maintain my status here in the CNMI. What do I do now?

A: To have legal status in the CNMI, you will need to have on hand a current CNMI Entry Permit issued prior to November 28, 2009. Assuming that all you have is a current CNMI permit that will be expiring, you will need to convert immediately a foreign student visa through a SEVIS certified school or program.

Q: How is SEVIS related to my foreign student permit expiring with CNMI?

A: Prior to Entry Permit expiration, you will need to work with the Educational Institution you are attending. They should be able to assist you through with the Student and Exchange Visitor Information System (SEVIS) certified school or program; provided, however, that the Educational Institution you are attending is SEVIS approved. All non-immigrants seeking student status should work with Educational Institutions that are certified by SEVIS for processing of "student visas." It is highly recommended that you visit the U.S. Immigration and Custom Enforcement website http://www.ice.gov and follow the link to SEVP (Student and Exchange Visitor Program) http://www.ice.gov/sevis/index.htm for more info.

Source: CNMI Department of Commerce

Q&A Foreign investors and foreign retirees

Question: Am I required to hold an umbrella permit in order to remain in the CNMI?

Answer: No you are not. You are allowed to maintain your status as long as you have a valid CNMI investor or retiree permit. However, prior to the expiration of your permit (which should be prior to November 28, 2011), you will have to apply for a CNMI-only E2 nonimmigrant investor visa with the U.S. Customs and Immigration Services (USCIS) in order to maintain your investor or retiree status. Please visit their office which is located in the TSL Plaza Building along beach road in Garapan, Saipan or their website at http://www.uscis.gov for more information.

Q: As a holder of a foreign investor or foreign retiree umbrella permit, am I entitled to live and maintain my status in the CNMI until November 28, 2011?

A: No you are not. Umbrella permits are conditional in nature and will only be valid through November 28, 2011 if you maintain compliance with the requirements of the issuance of the permit. For example, if your regular CNMI-issued investor permit expires on April 30, 2011, in order for you to qualify to maintain your CNMI permit status through November 28, 2011, you are still required to renew your permit with the Department of Commerce by paying a prorated application fee that extends your permit through November 28, 2011 only if you maintain compliance with the permit requirements.

However, if you wish to live and maintain your investor or retiree status in the CNMI beyond November 28, 2011, you will have to apply for a E2 CNMI visa with the USCIS.

Q: Am I required to wait until November 2011 prior to applying for a E2 CNMI visa?

A: No you are not. Foreign investors and retirees are free to immediately apply for a E2 CNMI visa with the USCIS.

Q: I am an existing foreign investor or foreign retiree but was only issued a temporary umbrella permit on or prior to November 27, 2009. When can I expect to receive an actual and longer term permit (identification card)?

A: The Department of Labor will have actual permits printed and ready for distribution by January 4, 2010.

Q: I am a new foreign investor or retiree who was issued an umbrella permit but not a regular CNMI permit prior to November 27, 2009. Am I going to receive two permits?

A: Yes. You should have an umbrella permit and a regular CNMI investor or retiree permit (ID card) that will be available for pick up by January 4, 2010. Please visit Commerce's Foreign Investment Office at that time for status of your permit.

Q: I did not pick up my umbrella permit by the November 27, 2009 deadline. Can I still pick up my umbrella permit from Commerce?

A: No you cannot. If you failed to pick up your umbrella permit prior to November 28, 2009, you have essentially forfeited your opportunity.

Q: Am I mandated to hold an umbrella permit? What is its purpose?

A: No. The purpose of the umbrella permit is to provide for a conditional permit which gives you the option to renew with the CNMI or converting to an E2 CNMI visa prior to November 28, 2011.

Q: I do not have an umbrella permit, and I would like to maintain my status here in the CNMI. What do I do now?

A: To have legal status in the CNMI, you will need to have on hand a current CNMI Entry Permit – issued prior to November 28, 2009. Assuming that all you have is a current CNMI permit that will be expiring, you will need to convert immediately to a E2 CNMI-Only Visa.

Source: CNMI Department of Commerce

Public library's December events

Free services

- Free Computer Class at the Information Technology Center every Saturday, 10am-11:30am (Limited seats)
- Homework Center offers tutoring on all subjects on Tuesday – Friday, 1pm – 5pm; Saturday, 9am-12pm.
- Christmas Read Aloud & Crafts every Saturday, 10:30am-11-am, Joeten-Kiyu Public Library – COHL & Motheread & Fatheread
- Dec. 19, 2009: Marianas High School's National Honor Society Christmas Activity, 10:30am-12pm

Bookmobile Service Schedule

- Koblerville Youth Center, Tuesdays, 3pm - 3:45pm
- Kagman Community Center, Gov't Payday Friday, 5pm—6-:30pm

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
CJPA - CRIMINAL JUSTICE PLANNING AGENCY
Northern Marianas Commonwealth Council for the Improvement of the Criminal Justice System

PUBLIC NOTICE

Pursuant to 1 CMC §9912, hereby giving notice that the CNMI State Advisory Group (SAG), also known as the "Youth Advisory Council" (YAC) of the Criminal Justice Planning Agency will hold an Awards Meeting on **Thursday, December 17, 9:00 A.M. - 4:00 P.M., Vista B Conference Room, Palms Resort, Saipan.**

AGENDA

I. CALL TO ORDER

II. ROLL CALL

III. REVIEW AND ADOPTION OF AGENDA

IV. REVIEW AND ADOPTION OF MINUTES
- Review and Adoption of Minutes from YAC/JJTF meeting on March 27, 2009.

V. NEW BUSINESS
1. Review and Award of Sub-grant Applications for FY 2009 Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention funds.
   a. Title II Formula Grant
   b. Title V Prevention Grant
   c. Juvenile Accountability Block Grant
   d. Enforcing Underage Drinking Laws Grant

VI. ANNOUNCEMENTS
- Next Youth Advisory Council Meeting

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

Publication of this notice was paid for with federal funds made possible by a grant from the US Department of Justice, Office of Justice Programs, Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention.

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Visit Us at: http://www.cjpa.gov.mp

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
NORTHERN MARIANAS HOUSING CORPORATION
Tel. (670) 234-6866, 234-9447, 234-7689, 234-7670 • Fax. (670) 234-9021
Email: nmhc@nmhc.gov.mp • Website: http://www.nmhc.gov.mp

PUBLIC NOTICE

(This Notice is paid by NMHC with HUD Funds.)

Governor Benigno R. Fitial, Lt. Governor Eloy S. Inos, and the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation (NMHC) Board of Directors, through its Chairwoman, Ms. Marcie M. Tomokane, wish to announce that its Consolidated Annual Performance Report (CAPER) for Program Year 2008, is available for review and comments by the general public no later than December 29, 2009. Written comments must be submitted to the NMHC Office in Garapan, Saipan, P. O. Box 500514, Saipan, MP 96950, or by contacting Ms. Zenie P. Mafnas, Planner/Grant Writer, at 234-9447/7689.

The report will be submitted to the U. S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), Honolulu Office, by December 31, 2009. The CAPER encompasses the performance assessment of the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG), Home Investment Partnership Act (HOME) and Emergency Shelter Grant (ESG) Programs in the Commonwealth.

The report is available at the NMHC Central Office in Saipan and at the respective NMHC Field Offices in Rota and Tinian during regular business hours, Monday through Friday, except CNMI holidays.

/s/ Marcie M. Tomokane
Chairwoman of the Board

NMHC is a fair housing agency and an equal opportunity lender and employer.

TOTTOTVILLE PROPERTY FOR SALE

2nd NOTICE OF SALE
UNDER POWER OF SALE
IN DEED OF TRUST

Anthony P. Sonoda and Lorraine Anne C. Sonoda now known as Lorraine Anne T. Cabrera, (collectively "Trustor"), on or about March 11, 2002 gave and delivered to the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation, formerly known as the Mariana Island Housing Authority ("Trustee"), acting on behalf of the Department of Veterans Affairs, United States of America, ("VA"), a Deed of Trust upon certain real property hereinafter described, which Deed of Trust was recorded on March 11, 2002 under Document No. 02-585 to secure payment of a Promissory Note of the Trustor to the Trustee, acting on behalf of the VA.

The Deed of Trust and this Notice of Sale affect the property hereafter described:

LOT NO. 019 I 30, CONTAINING AN AREA OF 948 SQUARE METERS, MORE OR LESS, AS MORE PARTICULARLY SHOWN ON THE SURVEY PLAT OF SUBDIVISION OF LOT 019 I 04, DLS CHECK NO. 019 I 02, THE ORIGINAL OF WHICH WAS FILED WITH THE COMMONWEALTH RECORDER'S OFFICE, AS FILE NO. 91-2320, ON MAY 13, 1991.

The Trustor has defaulted on payment of the Note secured by the Deed of Trust, and by reason of said default Trustee issued its Notice of Default on January 21, 2009. More than thirty days have passed since the default notice was served on Trustor and said default has not been cured.

Pursuant to 2CMC §4622(b)(2), NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that, Trustee will, on **Friday, December 18, 2009 at 10:00 a.m., at the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation's office in Garapan, Saipan** under power of sale contained in the Deed of Trust, sell the above described parcel of real property at public auction to the highest qualified bidder, to satisfy the obligations secured by said Deed of Trust. The minimum bid offer shall be not less than **Ninety-Seven Thousand, Eight Hundred Twelve and 00/100 ($97,812.00)**, the total amount due under the VA loan.

A deposit of ten percent (10%) of the purchase price must be paid on the day of the auction sale. The remaining balance will be due within 72 hours of the auction sale. Failure to make payment of the remaining balance within 72 hours will result in forfeiture by the buyer of the ten percent (10%) deposit, and any and all of the buyer's rights, title and interest in any of the aforementioned property will revert to NMHC. The sale shall be without warranty as to the title or interest to be conveyed or as to the property of the Deed of Trust, other than that the Trustee is the lawful holder of such Deed of Trust. The purchase price shall be payable by cash, certified check or cashier's check.

Trustee reserves the right to reject any and all bids and to cancel or extend the date, time and place for sale of such property. Any prospective buyer must be a person authorized by the Constitution and laws of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands to hold title to real property in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

DATED this 16th day of November, 2009.

/S/ Joshua T. Sasamoto
Corporate Director, NMHC

$738M for Guam military construction OK'd in budget bill

WASHINGTON, D.C.—U.S. Rep. Madeleine Z. Bordallo (D-GU) said Friday that the U.S. House of Representatives approved the conference report to H.R. 3288, the Consolidated Appropriations Act for 2010 on Thursday, Dec. 10, 2009, by a vote of 221 ayes to 202 nays with 1 present vote. Passage of H.R. 3288 nearly completes Congress's work on appropriations bills for Fiscal Year 2010.

The Defense Appropriations Act for Fiscal Year 2010 is the last remaining spending bill pending before Congress. Congressional leadership has indicated that this bill will be the last spending bill of the year and may pass before Congress recesses for the holidays.

Bordallo

Of particular interest, H.R. 3288 appropriates $737,654,000 for Guam in military construction funding for fiscal year 2010. This is the full amount authorized by the Congress in Public Law 111-84, the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2010.

The legislation also contains funding for several priorities for Guam in fiscal year 2010. The bill contains $49 million in Defense Access Roads funding which will be transferred to the Federal Highway Administration and will help to reduce congestion and chokepoints on several roads and at several intersections on Guam. The $49 million in this year's bill represents the first of future road investments from the Department of Defense.

The bill also funds $259 million for the first phase of construction of a new Naval Hospital in Agana Heights

"Congress provided funds to fulfill the U.S.'s commitment to the realignment of Marines from Okinawa, Japan to Guam," Bordallo said. "With $738 million in military construction funding the military buildup on Guam is now moving from the planning to the implementation phase. This significant military construction funding will bring economic activity and will create jobs for our local workforce."

The bill also contains $30 million for the construction of a new Guam National Guard Readiness Center, which will enable the Guam National Guard to continue to grow and modernize.

The Omnibus appropriations bill also contains significant funding for other priorities on Guam, including the University of Guam, at-risk youth programs at Sanctuary, assistance to enhance security at the Guam International Airport and assistance for Guam water utilities.

"This federal funding will help Guam address priority needs and provide begin planning for larger projects," said Bordallo. "I thank my colleagues particularly, Congressman David Obey, chairman of the House Appropriations Committee, for their support of my project requests that are a significant investment in the future of Guam. I look forward to the benefits that these projects will have in our island."

The bill included appropriations for the Commerce, Justice, and Science; Financial Services; Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education; Military Construction and Veterans Affairs; State and Foreign Operations; and Transportation and Housing and Urban Development Subcommittees. Appropriations bills for Agriculture; Energy & Water; Homeland Security; Interior & Environment and Legislative Branch passed as separate bills. ***(PR)***

JLAB COMPETITION

Tinian JROTC's Academic and Leadership team participated in the online JLAB competition on Nov. 14, 2009. Team members of the academic team included Mary Hocog, Richeena Farrell, Chloe Hofschneider, Rikkie Farrell. Team members of the leadership team: Alisha Shrestha, Chelsie Manglona, Donnie Borja, Marquina Hofschneider, and Alana Takasi. This competition determined whether they will make it to level 2 or not. The team did a terrific job, worked together, got a good score, and proceeded to level 2.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

SERVICE LEARNING

Selected cadets in the Tinian JROTC program participated in a service learning project: Thanksgiving Day for kindergarten and first graders that was held on Nov. 24, 2009, at the Tinian Elementary School. The activities included turkey making, reading books, coloring pages, pin-the-tail-on-the-turkey, and dancing. This event allowed the cadets to gain communication and leadership skills and practice teamwork with little kids.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Deadline extended for Farm Bill Program applications

Applications are being accepted from farmers and ranchers for three different Farm Bill Programs that are administered by the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Natural Resources Conservation Service.

The three programs include Environmental Quality Incentives Program, EQIP; the Wildlife Habitat Incentive Program, WHIP; and Agriculture Management Assistance, AMA.

Interested farmers and ranchers have until Jan. 15, 2010 to submit their applications to be considered for this ranking period.

"We're focusing our conservation efforts on treating identified priority natural resource concerns on lands being used to produce agricultural products," says Lawrence Yamamoto, director of the Pacific Islands Area for the Natural Resources Conservation Service.

Financial assistance is available through EQIP to agricultural producers who are willing to implement conservation measures which treat the targeted natural resource concerns on their land (including forestry, organic farming, and energy conservation). WHIP provides technical and financial assistance to improve fish and wildlife habitat. Previously, AMA was available in 15 states and Hawaii was just added as a qualifying state. This program addresses water management, erosion control, and integrated pest management.

ON THE NET

■ www.pia.nrcs.usda.gov

Projects that install conservation measures on agricultural lands to address the following proposed identified priority natural resource concerns are being considered: animal waste, sedimentation, noxious weeds, insufficient water supply for livestock or irrigation, pesticide or nutrient contamination of ground or surface waters, at-risk species habitat, and invasive species. For a full description of the program eligibility, please visit www.nrcs.usda.gov/programs.

Applications are accepted year-round for these three programs; however, this ranking cycle ends on Jan. 15, 2010. Previous applications that were not selected/funded in the last ranking cycle will be included for the Jan. 15 deadline.

NRCS will provide technical assistance to help agricultural producers design, plan, and implement their conservation measures. Interested farmers and ranchers are asked to call their local NRCS Field Office for more information. To find the office nearest you, visit www.pia.nrcs.usda.gov. ***(USDA)***

FEMA highlights holiday gifts that increase preparedness

This year Federal Emergency Management Agency has assembled a list of gift ideas for the holidays to help keep your family and friends prepared. Emergencies can happen at any moment; these gifts can serve as a great starting point to ensure that your friends and family have an emergency communications plan, a disaster supply kit, and stay informed about emergencies in their area.

"Disasters can happen anytime, anywhere and the holiday season provides a great opportunity to ensure that you and your loved ones are taking simple steps to be prepared," said FEMA Administrator Craig Fugate. "As families gather this holiday season, I encourage everyone to take a few minutes and discuss what you would do in case of an emergency or disaster. The public is the most important member of our nation's emergency response team and the more the public does to be prepared, the more successful this team will be."

The most important thing any individual can do is take a few minutes to discuss with their family, friends and loved ones what they will do in the case of an emergency or disaster. This includes developing a simple family communications plan and identifying how you would get in touch with loved ones and where you might meet if you are separated when an emergency or disaster takes place.

Additionally, there are simple supplies that can go a long way in the case of an emergency or disaster that would make great gifts this holiday season.

A list of possible gifts that may assist in disasters includes:

■ Disaster kits for homes, offices and autos (first aid kits; food, water and prescription medications for 72 hours; i.e., extra clothing, blankets, and flashlights).

■ NOAA weather radios with extra batteries.

■ Enrollment in a CPR or first-aid class.

■ Smoke detectors.

■ Fire extinguishers (for kitchen, garage, car, etc.)

■ Foldable ladders for second-story escape in a fire.

■ Car kits (emergency flares, shovels, ice scrapers, flashlights and fluorescent distress flags).

■ Pet Disaster kits (food, water, leashes, dishes and carrying case or crate).

■ Battery powered lamps

This year, consider at least one of these ideas. You just may save the life of a friend or family member. For more information and preparedness tips, please visit www.ready.gov and www.fema.gov. ***(PR)***

USCG releases findings in fatal rescue helicopter crash off Oahu

HONOLULU—he U.S. Coast Guard released the results of its investigation here Friday into the loss of an HH-65 Dolphin rescue helicopter from Coast Guard Air Station Barbers Point about five miles south of Honolulu International Airport on Sept. 4, 2008.

All four Coast Guard air crewmembers aboard 'Coast Guard 6505'—Capt. Thomas Nelson, Lt. Cmdr. Andrew Wischmeier, Petty Officer First Class David Skimin, and Petty Officer First Class Joshua Nichols—died in the accident.

ON THE NET

■ www.uscg.mil/foia/reading-room.asp

"I have been privileged to come to know the richness and depth of the lives of these four beloved Guardians, mostly through stories related by their families and fellow airmen," said Rear Adm. Manson Brown, commander of the 14th Coast Guard District. "For those closest to this tragedy, the names of the fallen are etched in our hearts forever."

'Coast Guard 6505' was conducting rescue basket hoist training with Motor Life Boat 47317 from Coast Guard Station Honolulu when the accident occurred.

During the fifth hoist evolution around 8:11pm, while beginning to recover the basket, the hoist cable went slack due to the motion of the helicopter in a hover and the small boat in the waves, and air crew cable adjustments in response to these motions. The extra slack in the cable formed a loop that snagged on a dewatering standpipe just as the stern of MLB 47317 fell in the trough of a wave, causing the cable to part and inducing an unusual attitude recovery (extreme yaw to the left) causing damage to the helicopter's rotor system and other damage when the rotor blades made contact with the helicopter's hoist boom assembly.

The aircraft transitioned to forward flight, gained altitude and commenced a slow climb northwest toward the south shore of Oahu, Hawaii. 'Coast Guard 6505' climbed to an altitude of about 500 feet and accelerated to about 50 mph while experiencing abnormal vibrations and issuing "Mayday" calls. The aircraft traveled about two miles when it experienced a catastrophic loss of airworthiness and rapidly fell into the Pacific Ocean around 8:15pm and sank in water about 1,300 feet deep.

"We do very dangerous work, often in harsh environments," said Brown. "Our training procedures must appropriately challenge our crews to a degree necessary to maximize mission success for actual cases. Mariners rely on us to be there when they encounter the perils of the sea."

Rescue basket hoist training involves a helicopter lowering a rescue basket to the deck of a Coast Guard boat and then hoisting the basket back to the right side door of the helicopter. This training is essential for pilots and crew to remain current in the processes and techniques required to safely make rescues under more arduous conditions.

The detailed results and recommendations from the investigation are issued to the public through the Commandant's Final Action Memo on the Administrative Investigation and through the Final Decision Letter on the Mishap Investigation. Both documents are available in the Coast Guard's FOIA Reading Room at www.uscg.mil/foia/reading-room.asp. ***(USCG)***

Business

Continental lauds historic US-Japan 'open skies' agreement

WASHINGTON, D.C.—Continental Airlines and Continental Micronesia applauded Friday the recently announced open skies agreement between the U.S. and Japan.

The U.S. government has signed an historic open skies agreement that will provide the U.S. industry guaranteed access to Tokyo's Haneda airport for the first time in the 30-plus years it has been closed to U.S. carriers.

In addition, U.S. airline customers, shippers, communities and employees will benefit from aviation liberalization with Japan, including a broader choice of airline flights, itineraries, fares, and eventually more flights between the two countries.

The carriers are confident that the new U.S.-Japan agreement establishes a fair opportunity for them to compete in all the important markets between the two countries.

Continental currently serves eight cities in Japan (Sapporo, Sendai, Niigata, Tokyo, Nagoya, Okayama, Hiroshima and Fukuoka) with more than 70 weekly departures, and will add Osaka on a year-round scheduled–service basis from Dec. 23.

In October, Continental joined Star Alliance and currently serves Japan in conjunction with alliance partners including United Airlines and ANA. Continental is currently discussing deeper cooperation with these two airlines on trans-Pacific routes, and this cooperation would be facilitated by the new Open Skies agreement.

"We deeply appreciate the leadership of Secretary of State Clinton and Secretary of Transportation LaHood in this process," said Continental chair and CEO Larry Kellner. "Both the U.S. and Japan negotiating teams deserve credit for achieving this breakthrough agreement, which will re-define air travel between the two countries for years to come." ***(Continental)***

Continental expressed gratitude to Senator Kay Bailey Hutchison (R-TX), Senator Frank Lautenberg (D-NJ), Congresswoman Madeleine Bordallo (D-Guam), Congressman Gene Green (D-TX), and virtually the entire Texas Congressional Delegation for recognizing the benefits of open skies and encouraging the U.S. negotiators to conclude this deal.

Woods' time-out to hurt Tiger Inc.

By EMILY FREDRIX
AP MARKETING WRITER

When Tiger Woods' break from golf ends, he's unlikely to regain his crown as one of the world's most valuable pitchmen, even if he gets back to winning tournaments and convinces people he's changed.

America loves comeback stories, but his future ad opportunities are likely to be limited to sports product endorsements, significantly reducing his earnings power.

That was the takeaway from Gillette's announcement Saturday that won't feature Woods in its ads for an unspecified period of time. It was the first major sponsor to distance itself from Woods since he announced late Friday he is taking an indefinite leave from golf to work on his marriage after allegations of infidelity surfaced in recent weeks.

Woods' time-out and request for privacy may give sponsors the cover they need to pull their ads indefinitely and distance themselves from allegations that Woods had trysts with mutliple women.

AT&T said it is evaluating its relationship with the golfer. Representatives from Accenture won't say what its plans are regarding Woods, whom the consulting firm has used to personify its claimed attributes of integrity and high performance. But its Web site no longer displays on its home page an image of the golfer that had been there as recently as Thursday.

Companies often use athletes and celebrities in image ads not to sell products but to ride the coattails of their perceived qualities in the hope that it will rub off on them. Those kinds of ads are now likely gone forever for Woods as Tiger Inc. has self-destructed, costing him hundreds of millions in future endorsement fees.

AP

In this Jan. 21, 2009, file photo, Tiger Woods, left, smiles as he stands with his daughter Sam, left to right, mother Kultida, and wife Elin Nordegren, next to a bronze statue bearing the likeness of Tiger with his late father Earl Woods, during its unveiling inside the the Tiger Woods Learning Center in Anaheim, Calif.

Before the Nov. 27 car accident that exposed Woods' alleged serial infidelity, 91 percent of the opinions expressed about him on the Internet were positive, according to Zeta Interactive. As of Saturday, Woods' positive rating online had fallen to just 41 percent.

That's bad news for Accenture. The global consulting and outsourcing firm lauded its connections with Woods in a 2006 news release, saying its "Go on, be a Tiger" campaign had boosted its image significantly.

"The world associates Tiger with high performance. He embodies the relentless pursuit of perfection," James E. Murphy, Accenture's chief marketing and communications officer, was quoted as saying in that release. The company didn't return requests for comment Saturday.

Nation

Body found on Mount Hood; 2 climbers are still missing

PORTLAND, Ore. (AP)—Crews on Saturday found the body of a climber missing on Oregon's Mount Hood but two others were still missing more than a day after the three set out to climb the west side of the 11,000-foot peak, a sheriff's spokesman said.

Jim Strovink, Clackamas County sheriff's spokesman, identified the climber who died as 26-year-old Luke T. Gullberg, of Des Moines, Wash.

The remaining climbers still missing were identified as Anthony Vietti, 24, of Longview, Wash., and Katti Nolan, 29, of Portland. All three climbers have been described as experienced and well-equipped.

A search was set to resume at dawn for Vietti and Nolan.

"This is still a rescue operation," Strovink said, adding that family members had been notified and some had joined rescue crews.

Strovink said Gullberg's body was transported off the mountain by rescue crews and a forensic examination was planned by the Clackamas County medical examiner. No details were released on how he died or about the remaining climbers on the mountain.

Houston elects 1st openly gay mayor

HOUSTON (AP)—City Controller Annise Parker made history Saturday by being elected Houston's first openly gay mayor, seizing 53.6 percent of the vote in the hotly contested race.

"This election has changed the world for the gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgendered community. Just as it is about transforming the lives of all Houstonians for the better, and that's what my administration will be about," Parker told supporters after former city attorney Gene Locke conceded defeat.

Of the more than 152,000 residents who turned out to cast ballots in the fourth largest U.S. city, 81,652 chose Parker—some 11,000 votes more than Locke received.

The election battle leading up to Saturday's balloting was marked by fierce campaigning and anti-gay rhetoric.

Parker has never made a secret or an issue of her sexual orientation. But that orientation became the focus of the race after anti-gay activists and conservative religious groups endorsed the 61-year-old Locke and sent out mailers condemning Parker's "homosexual behavior."

AP

Houston Mayor-elect Annise Parker, center, celebrates her runoff election vicotry at a campaign party Saturday, Dec. 12, 2009 in Houston.

ACROSS THE NATION

90 vehicles trapped as Calif faces rain, snow, mud

LOS ANGELES (AP)—A winter storm hit California with rain and snow Saturday and sent mudslides down hillsides denuded by fall wildfires onto highways, stranding 90 vehicles just north of Los Angeles. A 12-mile (20-kilometer) stretch of the Angeles Crest Highway was shut down as dozens of firefighters tried to clear the scene, said county fire Capt. Frank Reynoso. No injuries were reported. Seventy of the vehicles had been freed Saturday night, but another 20 would be forced to remain overnight, authorities said.

Creator of first 50-star American flag dies at 67

SAGINAW, Michigan (AP)—Robert G. Heft, who is credited with designing and sewing the first 50-star American flag, has died. He was 67. Wakeman Funeral Home says Heft died Saturday. A cause of death wasn't immediately available. Heft made the flag in 1958 as part of a high school history project. He spent more than 12 hours sewing the design on his mother's Singer sewing machine. President Dwight D. Eisenhower chose Heft's design to replace the 48-star flag. Heft left Michigan after his parents separated when he was about a year old. He returned after retiring from Northwest State Community College, where he was a professor.

More police killed by gunfire in 2009 in US

NEW YORK (AP)—Across the nation, 2009 was a particularly perilous year for police officers involved in gun disputes. The number of officers killed in the line of duty by gunfire increased 24 percent from 2008, according to preliminary statistics compiled by the National Law Enforcement Officers Memorial Fund, a national nonprofit organization that tracks officer-related deaths. As of Saturday, 47 police officers have died in the U.S. this year after being shot while on duty, up from 38 for the same time in 2008, which was the lowest number of gunfire deaths since 1956, according to the data.

Missing Utah mom's family prays for her return

WEST VALLEY CITY, Utah (AP)—Friends and family of a 28-year-old mother who disappeared nearly a week ago are fasting and praying for her safe return as volunteers post thousands of fliers with her image on it. Susan Powell was reported missing Monday under what police are calling suspicious circumstances. A prayer service attended by about 100 people was held for her Saturday in West Valley City. Since she was reported missing, authorities have questioned her husband and searched a desert area where he said he took the couple's two young children, ages 2 and 4, camping early Monday morning in freezing conditions. Josh Powell returned Monday night, after police had already received a call from relatives who had not heard from the Powell family.

Asia

2 dead in attack on RP jail, 31 inmates freed by rebels

By JIM GOMEZ
ASSOCIATED PRESS WRITER

MANILA, Philippines (AP)—Scores of suspected Islamic militants knocked down a concrete wall and barged into a jail in the volatile southern Philippines on Sunday, freeing 31 inmates in a nighttime attack that sparked a gunbattle in which two people were killed, officials said.

Vice Governor Al Rasheed Sakalahul of Basilan island said 70 heavily armed men cut through padlocks with boltcutters after using a sledgehammer to destroy the wall at the provincial jail in Isabela city to free several detained Muslim guerrillas. Other inmates also dashed to freedom, he said.

The daring assault sparked a brief clash that killed one attacker and a jail guard. The attackers and prisoners fled in several vehicles toward Basilan's jungle-covered mountainous heartland, Sakalahul said.

At least 31 inmates escaped, including suspected militants from the Moro Islamic Liberation Front, a large Muslim rebel group engaged in peace talks with the government, and the smaller but more violent Abu Sayyaf group, which has been linked to al-Qaida, regional military commander Maj. Gen. Benjamin Dolorfino said.

Among those who escaped were two Moro rebels accused of beheading 10 marines during a 2007 clash, national police spokesman Chief Supt. Leonardo Espina said.

"All these are high-risk prisoners," Sakalahul said, adding that troops were closing in on some of the fleeing inmates.

Military checkpoints were set up in Isabela, the provincial capital, and nearby townships, Dolorfino said.

Martial law ended in RP's Maguindanao

MANILA, Philippines (AP)—The Philippine president has lifted martial law in a southern province where 57 people were massacred in the country's worst political violence, but the area will remain under a state of emergency as authorities investigate a powerful clan accused in the carnage.

The opposition said President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo made the move late Saturday to pre-empt possible censure by the Supreme Court. The court had ordered the government to comment by Monday on at least seven petitions questioning the legal basis for last week's proclamation, which allowed police and soldiers to make arrests without warrants.

It was the first time that martial law had been declared since late dictator Ferdinand Marcos imposed it nationwide more than 30 years ago and ruled by decree until he was toppled in 1986.

Arroyo took the step so security forces would have more power to move against the Ampatuan clan blamed for the Nov. 23 killings of members of a rival clan and 30 journalists. The clan is also accused of attempting to foment a rebellion to prevent authorities from arresting members of the family.

The Ampatuans have ruled Maguindanao for years and are allies of Arroyo, but the ruling party expelled them days after the killings. The Ampatuans have denied involvement in the massacre.

Elsewhere in the south, authorities sought the help of a tribal chieftain to persuade government-armed former militiamen to release 47 hostages, even as police prepared a rescue operation.

The massacre and the abduction have underscored the lawlessness in a volatile region plagued by bandits, Muslim and communist insurgents and private armies.

AP

In this photo released by the Presidential Close-in Photographers Office (PCPO), President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo, right, shakes hands with Autonomous Region of Muslim Mindanao Acting Gov. Ansaruddin Alonto Adiong during the National Security Council meeting Saturday, Dec. 12, 2009 at the Malacanang palace in Manila, Philippines. Arroyo approved the lifting Saturday of a weeklong period of martial law in a southern Philippine province where 57 people were massacred last month in the country's worst political violence.

ASIAN BRIEFS

Man accused of killing 12 people captured in China

BEIJING (AP)—State media say authorities in central China have captured a man who went on a shooting spree with a shotgun, killing 12 people including his father. The official Xinhua News Agency says Liu Aibing, 34, was apprehended Sunday in Gaoming town in Hunan province's Anhua county, a day after he went on a rampage with his shotgun. It says Liu also seriously injured two other people and set six homes on fire. An officer at Anhua County's Public Security Bureau confirmed that Liu was taken into custody after police surrounded him. Xinhua says the dead included his father and several other close family members. It says Liu had a long history of mental illness.

NATO, Afghan forces kill 5 militants in east

KABUL (AP)—Afghan and international troops killed five militants Sunday in a strike on a Taliban operative involved in bomb-making in eastern Laghman province, the military coalition said. The troops were targeting a compound in Alingar district where their sources reported militant activity, the coalition said in a statement. As the forces approached the area, several militants threatened them with guns. The NATO and Afghan forces shot at the insurgents, killing five, the coalition said. They searched the compound and detained one other militant.

World

968 detained at climate rally

COPENHAGEN (AP)—Tens of thousands of protesters have marched through the chilly Danish capital and nearly 1,000 were detained in a mass rally to demand an ambitious global climate pact, just as talks hit a snag over rich nations' demands on China and other emerging economies.

The mostly peaceful demonstrations in Copenhagen on Saturday provided the centerpiece of a day of global climate activism stretching from Europe to Asia. Police assigned extra officers to watch protesters marching toward the suburban conference center to demand that leaders act now to fight climate change.

Police estimated their numbers at 40,000, while organizers said as many as 100,000 had joined the march from downtown Copenhagen. It ended with protesters holding aloft candles and torches as they swarmed by night outside the Bella Center where the 192-nation U.N. climate conference is being held.

There have been a couple of minor protests over the past week, but Saturday's was by far the largest.

Police said they rounded up 968 people in a preventive action against a group of youth activists at the tail end of the demonstration. Officers in riot gear moved in when some of the activists, masking their faces, threw cobblestones through the windows of the former stock exchange and Foreign Ministry buildings.

A police officer received minor injuries when he was hit by a rock thrown from the group and one protester was injured by fireworks, police spokesman Flemming Steen Munch said.

Earlier, police said they had detained 19 people, mainly for breaking Denmark's strict laws against carrying pocket knives or wearing masks during demonstrations.

AP

Tens of thousands demonstrators take part in a march leaving form parliament, rear, in the center of Copenhagen Saturday Dec. 12, 2009.

LatAm bloc to begin using own currency

HAVANA (AP)—Members of a leftist bloc of nine Latin American nations said Saturday they plan to use a new currency dubbed the "sucre" for trade among themselves starting in January.

No sucres will be printed or coined, but the virtual currency will be used to manage debts between governments while reducing reliance on the U.S. dollar and on Washington in general.

Cuba already signed an agreement on Saturday to pay for a shipment of Venezuelan rice in sucres, according to Rogelio Sierra, the island's deputy foreign minister. He declined to say what the shipment was worth.

That agreement was made even as ever cash-strapped Cuba has fallen behind on its debt to nations and multinational corporations amid the global recession.

The Bolivarian Alternative for the Americas trade group is holding a two-day summit starting Sunday in the Cuban capital.

The group was formed by Venezuela's self-described socialist president, Hugo Chavez, as an alternative to U.S.-backed free-trade consortiums. Member nations are Venezuela, Cuba, Nicaragua, Honduras, Ecuador, Bolivia, Antigua and Barbuda, San Vincent and the Grenadines, and Dominica.

Honduras remains part of the bloc despite a June coup that toppled leftist President Manuel Zelaya. Zelaya's deposed foreign minister is attending the summit, but the acting government in Honduras will almost certainly not abide by any agreements made.

Chavez was greeted Friday as he arrived in Cuba by President Raul Castro. Cuba and Venezuela signed "agreements of cooperation" on 285 bilateral projects in 2010 totaling nearly US$3.2 billion, according to Venezuelan Energy Minister Rafael Ramirez. He provided no details on what those agreements entail, however.

On Saturday, Raul Castro said the cooperation between the countries will allow them to "alleviate the negative impact of the current world economic crisis."

Leftist presidents Daniel Ortega of Nicaragua and Evo Morales of Bolivia are expected to attend the summit.

Iran sets conditions on nuke fuel exchange

MANAMA, Bahrain (AP)—After weeks of conflicting responses, Iran abruptly said Saturday that it is ready to exchange uranium for nuclear fuel—the key demand of a U.N.-sponsored initiative to defuse global fears over its nuclear program.

The conditions laid out in comments from Iran's foreign minister, however, are unlikely to satisfy the U.S. and its allies as they prepare to discuss new sanctions against Tehran at a meeting that could take place in the coming week.

Iran's stockpile of uranium is at the heart of international concerns because it offers Iran a possible pathway to nuclear weapons production if it is enriched to higher levels. Tehran insists it only wants to use the material to produce fuel for power plants and for other peaceful purposes.

Under a U.N. plan proposed in October and being pushed by Washington and five other world powers, Iran would ship most of its uranium—up to 2,600 pounds (1,200 kilograms) of it—abroad. It would then be enriched to higher levels in Russia, turned into fuel rods in France and returned to power a research reactor in Tehran that produces medical isotopes.

The material in the fuel rods cannot be enriched to higher levels, denying Iran the ability to use it to make weapons.

"We accepted the proposal in principle," Foreign Minister Manochehr Mottaki told reporters at a regional security conference in Bahrain.

In what is almost certain to be a deal breaker, however, he spoke of exchanging the material in phases rather than all at once as is called for in the U.N. plan. He said Iran had offered to make a first shipment of 880 pounds (400 kilograms) of enriched uranium.

Health & Fitness

Pros' picks: Best fitness devices

By JEANNINE STEIN
(C) 2009, LOS ANGELES TIMES

Gadgets and machines have become as embedded in the fitness culture as sneakers and sweats. Although it's possible to get a decent workout with nothing more than a couple of dumbbells and a jump rope, high-tech contraptions help exercisers work smarter, not harder.

We asked three trainers for their must-have selection and the best ways to incorporate it into a fitness program.

■ Pete McCall, trainer and exercise physiologist with the American Council on Exercise.

■ Recommendation: Heart rate monitor

Heart rate monitors are good for someone just starting to exercise, because it helps them be much more effective with time. And they're pretty user-friendly.

If you're training to improve your base level and build endurance, you want to train at a lower level and not overtrain. To make sure you're working at an aerobic level, do a talk test—exercise at a fast pace, and say something relatively short, like the Pledge of Allegiance. When you can no longer say it effectively, note what your heart rate is. That would be the crossover point from working at an aerobic level to an anaerobic level, or from burning fat as a fuel source to burning carbs. Let's say your crossover point is 120. Once you establish that, you know where the high end of your aerobic level is.

When you want to do interval training to improve cardiovascular function, you can do two minutes in your anaerobic zone and then two minutes in your aerobic zone. Using the heart rate monitor you can gauge your intensity much better. It always amazes me—you see people working as hard as they can going crazy, making themselves breathless, but elite-level athletes like cyclists and runners spend about 70 percent to 80 percent of their time in their aerobic zone to build endurance.

I started using heart rate monitors when I started to teach spinning classes because they can monitor your training intensity in class. I always laugh when students say the class wasn't that hard, and I tell them they're right—but they'll be able to work out tomorrow. If you overtrain, it can disrupt sleep patterns and put stress on the body. Having a heart rate monitor allows people to listen to their body.

LOS ANGELES TIMES
Gina Lombardi, right, works with Betsy Weisberg on the LifeSpan fitness trainer.

■ Gina Lombardi, personal trainer.

■ Recommendation: Vibration plate

I'll ask someone to keep their legs straight and touch their toes and they can't do it, but they'll get on the vibration plate for 30 seconds and they'll be able to do it. Most people are inflexible in their hamstrings and lower back. I've also had people get on there and do fairly easy yoga poses and it tremendously increases their flexibility.

I recommend using it just twice a week to start and beginning on a low frequency—don't do it with every workout, because you have to get used to it. Ideally you should first try it with a trainer who knows how to use the machine. The most obvious improvement people usually see is in flexibility. Second is strength. I had one female client who couldn't do one regular push-up after weight training for a couple months. After I put her on the platform, she could do 10 push-ups after one week. Women are always the underdogs when it comes to upper-body strength, so it's nice to get the upper edge.

Studies have shown that people who used the plate increased their power output and their strength. That's huge, and it can apply to the average Joe who goes into the gym and wants to get more flexible and strong. Just by doing a few 30- to 60-second intervals on the platform they're able to increase their strength and power, and it gives them that instant gratification that everyone wants.

■ Ramona Braganza, personal trainer and member of the Gold's Gym Fitness Institute.

■ Recommendation: Pedometer

Pedometers are great—they not only track your steps, but some also log your miles and have an auto reset and will count your steps for seven days.

I think they work so well for losing weight and getting in shape because if you wear it all day long, from the minute you get up, you'll probably reach your goals. And if you don't, it will motivate you to walk your dog in the evening to get in some extra steps.

They're very easy to use and they're not at all intimidating. Some reset at zero in the morning, and that's about as easy as it gets.

I've been using one for about a year and a half. I'm a little older now, and my activity level started to suffer. It made me realize that running around every day in a normal fashion is exercise. I also take it on my hikes because I like to see how far I've gone.

When I walk for exercise, I like to make it more like a power workout. You can do interval training, walking fast and then slow, and adding some hills, mixing it up.

IN HUMBLE GRATITUDE

We the family of the late

†Eduardo Bruggemann Flores

Wish to extend our sincere appreciation to all our relatives and friends for the genuine compassion you showed us during our most painful time of sorrow. We especially would like to acknowledge the many thoughtful prayers, comfort, unending support and other considerate acts of grace extended to us. Your presence and prayers at the daily masses, nightly rosaries, and most especially at the mass of Christian burial were very comforting. Your kindness has touched us all and we will always remember you in our hearts and prayers.

Thank you, Si Yu'us Ma'ase

From the Family

In Celebration of His New Life

†Rick B. Hayes

Born on July 24, 1952 and called to eternal rest on December 9, 2009

In his new life, he now joins

Daughter:	†Amy Renee Hayes
Father:	†Billy Shoemake
Brother:	†James Hayes
Parents In-Law:	†Herman Reyes and †Maria Tenorio Guerrero
Sisters In-Law:	†Francesca T. Guerrero, †Francesca T. Guerrero, †Bernadita B. Mendiola

He will forever be missed by

Wife:	Anna Guerrero Hayes
Children and Grandchild:	Amanda C. Hayes and Christopher V. Pangelinan (Alana); Kristina M. Hayes
Mother:	Kay Shoemake

Brothers and Sisters and their spouses: Michael & Debbie Shoemake; Tony Shoemake; Valerie & Robert Wilson; Sandra Richards

Brothers and Sisters In-Law and their spouses: Jesus (Jesus Pan) & Rosalia Salas Guerrero; Agnes G. & Wayne Archibald; Herman Guerrero, Jr. (Jun Pan); Juan Pan T. Guerrero; Florencio (Bobby Pan) & Lucy Santos De Leon Guerrero; Margarita G. & Manuel (Ange) Sablan; Rudolfo (Rudy) & Connie Cabrera Guerrero; Joseph (Lee) & Vickie Tudela Guerrero; Leonora (Noreen) T. Guerrero; Donald M. Mendiola

He will also be missed by numerous nephews, nieces, relatives and friends.

Morning Mass is being offered at Mount Carmel Cathedral, 6:00 AM. On December 15, 2009 a viewing will be held at Borja's Funeral Home from 8:00 A.M. to 9:30 A.M. Eucharistic Celebration for the soul of †Rick B. Hayes will follow at Mt. Carmel Cathedral, 10:00 A.M.

In lieu of flowers and gifts the family asks that a donation be made to the American Cancer Society in memory of †Rick B. Hayes.

Un Dangkulo na Si Yu'us Maase. Thank you for your thoughts and prayers.

The Hayes Family

Life & Style

Two weeks that shattered a legend

By TIM DAHLBERG
AP SPORTS COLUMNIST

Tiger Woods had to be a happy man as he settled into a seat on his private jet for the long flight home from Australia. His successful comeback year was all but complete, and the rapturous reception he received Down Under was a pleasant reminder of his status as the most sought-after athlete in the world.

Not since the Beatles toured more than 40 years ago had the Aussies laid out such a welcome. Woods got a $3 million check just for showing up, the arrival of his jet was televised nationally, and fans jammed every fairway and green just to be able to say they saw him.

As he headed out, someone mentioned he had never seen such a frenzy at a tournament.

"I never have, either," Woods said.

Always in control, he teased them with a vague promise he would return. If he did, they could be sure it would be on his own terms, and they could be sure the price would go up.

The flight finally over, there was some time to recharge before capping the season with his own elite tournament in the hills north of Los Angeles. In between, Woods would fuel the jet for a quick trip to Stanford and induction in the school's athletic Hall of Fame.

He appeared on the sideline that night as honorary captain of the Big Game against California. For those lucky enough to be holding cameras, it was the perfect photo op of what seemed to be the perfect, blended All-American family.

The son of an African-American military man and Thai woman stood in his red Stanford sweat shirt, holding a red Cardinal hat in one arm and his 2-year-old daughter in another. His equally photogenic Swedish wife, Elin, stood next to him, wearing dark glasses with a scarf wrapped fashionably around her neck.

The day before, Woods had answered some questions for the 1.3 million followers of his Facebook page. The last one came from a fan named Rupert in Houston, who wondered how hard it was to leave his family and travel to tournaments.

"It's very difficult to leave Elin and the children, and I'm sure it's only going to get tougher," Woods replied.

Woods couldn't have known how tough things were going to get.

■■■

The first indication outside the Woods household that things might not be what they seemed came from the National Enquirer, which ran a story in its Thanksgiving week edition alleging that Woods was having an affair with a New York woman named Rachel Uchitel, who has denied it.

Inside the house, though, it might have been different. Another alleged mistress, Jaimee Grubbs, would later provide Us Weekly magazine a voice mail she said came from Woods two days before Thanksgiving, asking her do him a favor.

"Um, can you please, uh, take your name off your phone," said a man who identified himself as Tiger. "My wife went through my phone and, uh, may be calling you."

A few days later, people across the nation standing in lines to buy things on Black Friday heard some startling news: Woods had been seriously injured in a car accident outside his Florida home and was taken to a local hospital.

For many, shock turned to relief when word came later in the day that the accident and the injuries were minor and Woods was back home recuperating. But the questions were already starting to come.

Where was Woods going at 2:25 in the morning? How could he wreck his Cadillac Escalade so badly coming out of the driveway? Was it possible he could have been drunk or on drugs?

Then came the first bizarre revelation. The local police chief told The Associated Press that Elin had smashed in the back passenger windows of the Escalade with a golf club, ostensibly to help get her husband out.

The Florida Highway Patrol was curious to hear more. Inside the Woods mansion, though, they were already hunkering down.

AP

In this June 16, 1997, file photo, golfer Tiger Woods helps a youngster participating in the Tiger Woods Foundation Junior Golf Clinic on Randall's Island in New York.

Troopers went to the home the day of the accident, only to be told Woods was asleep. They arranged to come back the next day, only to be told he was too sore to talk. When they came back a third time, it was clear that no one would be saying anything. Not to authorities, certainly not to the media.

The silent strategy had always worked well for Woods whenever he didn't want to discuss other issues, whether it was women at Augusta National or his responsibilities to be a role model for young African-Americans. He had always controlled the message and, if he really wanted to make a point, it would be done in a clever Nike ad or from the safe confines of his Web site.

But this was different. This didn't just appeal to golf writers or the mainstream media.

The other tabloids geared up to find whatever dirt the National Enquirer didn't. Celebrity Web sites were suddenly filled with pictures of other women and tales which had never been told.

Helicopters hovered over his house in the gated community of Isleworth, looking for video of something that would sell. His mother was followed by paparazzi through an airport, and a small army of media fanned out looking for anything Tiger-related.

Woods wasn't giving them anything. He stayed out of public view, saying nothing even as rumors flew and speculation intensified about what he was doing when he drove wildly over a fire hydrant and into a tree. There were even more questions about what his wife was doing with the golf clubs.

His first public comments came the Sunday after the accident, and they weren't much, just a statement on his Web site saying the accident was his fault and asking that it remain "a private matter." The next day he issued another short statement saying he was withdrawing from his own tournament, sparing himself the spectacle of facing media in Los Angeles who would be ready with questions about everything except golf.

Woods almost certainly hoped that would be the end of it. The events of Thanksgiving weekend may have been embarrassing — even a bit humiliating — but Uchitel was denying she had an affair with him, and authorities didn't seem all that interested in pursuing the backstory to the crash.

The next day, Florida state troopers dropped their probe, citing Woods for careless driving and fining him $164. That bit of good news was short-lived, however, as Grubbs, a Los Angeles cocktail waitress, told Us Weekly she had engaged in a 31-month affair with Woods and had the text messages and a voice mail to prove it.

Three hours after the voice mail appeared on the magazine's Web site, another statement was issued on Woods' Web site, under the almost comical headline "Tiger comments on current events."

This was a more contrite Woods, apologizing for the first time for unspecified "transgressions" and saying he had let his family down. But he still stubbornly sparred from a distance with the media encircling him, saying he had a right to privacy no matter how high profile of a life he led.

"The virtue of privacy is one that must be protected in matters that are intimate and within one's own family," Woods' statement read. "Personal sins should not require press releases and problems within a family shouldn't have to mean public confessions."

By now, events were clearly spiraling far beyond anything Woods could have ever imagined. In less than a week he had gone from being one of the most admired people in the world to a punch line to jokes flowing freely in offices everywhere and on late-night television.

His popularity ratings were plunging. Crisis management experts around the country crowded in front of news cameras urging him to stop hiding behind Web site statements and come clean to the public — and quick.

Still, there was no sight of Woods. The statements stopped, and he remained in seclusion.

His alleged lovers weren't so shy. Suddenly women began appearing seemingly everywhere on Web sites and magazines to claim they had affairs with Woods. Two became four, four began eight, and by some counts 10 or 12 or more.

Worse yet, they didn't mind sharing intimate details about the alleged encounters. Soon, anyone with a computer or iPhone was privy to what they claimed to know about Woods and what he liked to do behind closed doors.

Woods spent almost all his life keeping score on the golf course. Now people were keeping score on him.

Nothing, it seemed, could satisfy the insatiable appetite of the celebrity media to find out more about Woods, and their reports had no trouble finding an audience. Traffic to the biggest sites jumped 50 percent or more, and major portals weren't shy about further blurring the line between gossip and real news by blogging along details without necessarily checking out the source.

With good reason. Yahoo Inc. CEO Carol Bartz told an investor conference that the Woods story was "better than Michael Jackson dying" for bringing people to her site and helping the company sell enough extra advertising to boost profits.

The mayor of Las Vegas thought the same thing. With many of Woods' alleged lovers having links to the city and with Woods well known in Vegas casinos and nightclubs, Oscar Goodman said it would provide a boost to the local economy even if people no longer believed that what happens in Vegas stays in Vegas.

Still, Woods remained in seclusion.

A police report released Monday in support of a Florida trooper who suspected Woods was driving under the influence merely upped the ante. The trooper had wanted Woods' blood test results, after a witness who wasn't identified in the report said Woods had been drinking alcohol earlier and had been prescribed two drugs, the sleep aid Ambien and the painkiller Vicodin.

The next day his mother-in-law was rushed to the hospital after collapsing in the bathroom. A frantic call from a woman who was either Elin or her twin sister was quickly released, complete with the sound of a child crying in the background.

None of it was funny, but that didn't stop the jokes. Every nighttime television host had his own, and what the professionals missed was filled in by amateur comedians.

An animation from Taiwan showing a very Asian-looking Woods crashing his car was an Internet hit, and a country-western song about him was released. Someone posted another Barry White-like song on YouTube, using the voice mail Woods allegedly left Grubbs with a backing chorus, and at Hollywood Park a horse named driveliketiger finished third in a race.

Though most of his fellow players expressed support for Woods and were careful about what they said, the player who introduced Woods to his wife wasn't as forgiving. Elin Nordegren worked as a nanny for Swedish golfer Jesper Parnevik when she and Woods first met, and Parnevik thought they would be a good match.

"I told her this is the guy that I think is everything you want. He's true. He's honest. He has great values. He has everything you would want in a guy," Parnevik said in an ESPN interview.

See TWO WEEKS on Next Page

'Uncharted 2' nabs top prize at VGAs

LOS ANGELES (AP)—The cinematic action adventure "Uncharted 2: Among Thieves" nabbed three prizes including game of the year at the Spike TV Video Game Awards.

The PlayStation 3 exclusive was named top game for that console and honored for its graphics at the awards show Saturday night at the LA Live complex in downtown, which featured appearances from Stevie Wonder, Green Day and Jack Black. Snoop Dogg and The Bravery performed.

"I want to see the companies that make these video games make them accessible so that people like myself can enjoy them too," Wonder said before presenting the best music game award to "The Beatles: Rock Band."

Green Day announced that they would be featured in a similar standalone title by game maker Harmonix, "Green Day: Rock Band," to be released next year.

Jake Gyllenhaal promoted his Jerry Bruckheimer-produced action movie based on the "Prince of Persia" games, due out next summer, and presented the game of the year award.

"Uncharted 2" earned raves from critics when it was released in October, and from attendees Saturday ranging from actor Zach Braff to "Gears of War" designer Cliff Bleszinski.

"We knew when we were making this game it was going to be good, but nobody could have predicted this kind of success," said Nolan North, the voice actor who plays "Uncharted 2's" lead character Nathan Drake.

He said he and developers at Naughty Dog studios had celebrated the game's big sales "by kicking around ideas for 'Uncharted 3,' because that's what we want to do."

Zachary Quinto of "Star Trek" said he'd be lending his voice to the upcoming massively multiplayer online game "Star Trek Online." Mike Tyson made an appearance alongside the cast of MTV's new "Jersey Shore" reality show, who hogged attention backstage.

"Everybody in the green room is pushing all these mega-celebrities out of the way," Braff said. "Get out of the way Sam Jackson, I think 'The Situation' is coming in."

Gibraltar's Aldorino crowned Miss World

JOHANNESBURG (AP)—Kaiane Aldorino from Gibraltar was named the new Miss World at a glittering two-hour pageant that put South Africa in the spotlight and featured traditional dancers and drummers.

The leggy brunette, dressed in white-lace evening gown, was crowned as silver confetti rained down onstage around her. She clapped her hands to her mouth when her name was announced.

"I have no words," she said when asked to describe how she felt. "I am really happy."

The 23-year-old administrative clerk from the British territory on the tip of the Iberian peninsula was a crowd favorite after winning the swimsuit competition.

She joined seven other contestants in the final round of the show. The loudest cheers were reserved for Miss South Africa, Tatum Keshwar who was the second runner-up.

First runner-up was Miss Mexico, Perla Beltran Acosta.

Aldorino did not give an indication of what her immediate plans were now that she had won the prestigious title.

"I will try to do the best that I can now that I have opportunity and advantage," she said in a brief interview with The Associated Press after the event.

AP

Miss World, Gibraltar's Kaiane Aldorino, smiles after she was crowned during the Miss World pageant in Johannesburg, South Africa, Saturday, Dec. 12, 2009.

Gibraltar, known as The Rock, is a quirky, multicultural British outpost of 30,000 people, most of whom speak perfect Spanish and even own property along Spain's southern Mediterranean coast. An estimated 12,000 people cross over from Spain daily to work and many more to visit.

Spain ceded sovereignty of Gibraltar to Britain in a 1713 treaty, but has persistently sought its return, claiming the territory as a natural and historic part of its geography. The outcropping is in the Strait of Gibraltar, for centuries a strategic waterway linking the Atlantic and the Mediterranean.

Wearing her crown of tiny jeweled blue flowers, Aldorino said had been impressed with South Africa, which was hosting its seventh Miss World final.

"It has a lot to offer," she said.

South Africa is taking advantage of the world's attention as the country gears up to host the World Cup in June.

Saturday's show, which was televised across the world, gave a taste of South Africa's rich cultural heritage and natural attractions.

The 112 contestants were welcomed at the start by Zulu dancers and the ululating African female performers. There were clips from the finalists time in South Africa - showing the beauties cuddling cheetahs and lions, on pristine white beaches and even playing soccer.

"It is a wonderful opportunity for South Africa to showcase that they can host a world-class event and also a great tourist opportunity to show off the best that South Africa has in store," Keshwar said.

TWO WEEKS

From Page 20

"And, uhh, I was wrong."

Even his own management company piled on.

Barry Frank, IMG's executive vice president for media sports programming, was on a panel about college sports media, where all the panelists were asked what sports business story they would be following closely in the next year.

"How many girls Tiger was with," Frank said.

■■■

Exactly two weeks after the accident, another statement was posted on Woods' Web site.

For the first time Woods admitted he had been unfaithful. "I am deeply aware of the disappointment and hurt that my infidelity has caused to so many people, most of all my wife and children," he said.

He asked for forgiveness, and said he didn't know if it would ever be possible to repair the damage he caused.

Then he announced what would have been unthinkable only days earlier: He was taking an indefinite break from golf to try to mend his fractured family life.

Before the crash and before the women started coming forward, Woods was starting at 2010 with great anticipation. He was playing perhaps better than ever, and three of the four major golf championships were at courses where he had won majors by runaway margins in previous years.

Now there's a possibility he could miss the Masters for the first time in 14 years. He might not play in the U.S. Open at Pebble Beach, where he won by a record 15 strokes in 2000.

No one knows when he will return, and whether he can retain the famous focus that had made him arguably the greatest golfer ever. The state of his marriage is also anyone's guess, and there has been no shortage of speculation about the future of the Woods household.

In just a matter of days an empire and a legend came crashing down in ways no one would have imagined. The perfect firestorm enveloped Woods and, for once in his life, he had no way of controlling what was happening around him.

The fall from grace has been both sudden and spectacular. At the peak of power just last month, he now faces an uncertain future that can't be changed with some clever marketing campaign.

This wasn't just another case of an athlete gone bad. Woods was the 2-year-old hitting golf balls on the Mike Douglas show, the teenager who won three straight U.S. Amateurs, and the first African-American to win the Masters.

He was the talent so great that Nike introduced him as a professional with an advertising blitz behind the tagline "Hello World," and the figure so imposing that his late father, Earl, predicted he would not only become greater than athletes such as Muhammad Ali and Jackie Robinson, but one of the greatest figures in world history.

"He's qualified through his ethnicity to accomplish miracles. He's the bridge between the East and the West," Earl Woods said in 1996. There is no limit because he has the guidance. I don't know yet exactly what form this will take. But he is the Chosen One."

Woods may not have accomplished miracles, but he did some miraculous things on the golf course. His legend grew with every win as he closed in on the records of Jack Nicklaus, and even a knee injury that cost him the last half of 2008 couldn't stop his march to greatness.

His family life seemed as perfect as his golf. He married the beautiful Elin five years ago, they honeymooned on his yacht "Privacy" and soon started a family that includes two young children.

Even those who didn't appreciate his play on the course admired him as a man, above the scandalous behavior of so many sports superstars these days.

Now, no one will ever look at him the same way again.

Practical gifts win praise from older friends, family

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

Dear Abby

DEAR ABBY: With the holidays here, I know people are considering gifts for older friends and family members. My 83-year-old mother still lives in her own home. She doesn't want more "stuff," so every year we give her practical things we know she already uses on a daily basis, including laundry detergent, bath oil beads and soap, toothpaste—even bird seed for her bird feeders. By the end of the year she has used up everything we have given her and is ready for new supplies.

Mom is happy with these gifts and says it saves her from having to go out and spend money on these things herself. Practical, everyday items make the best gifts for the older person on your list.

MARY IN RICHARDSON, TEXAS

DEAR MARY: When seniors have reached a point where they have become less active, I agree. So please allow me to offer a few additional suggestions to your gift list.

With the cost of groceries what they are today, many individuals on fixed incomes would appreciate a gift basket of goodies such as small cans of tuna, salmon, chicken or soup. Also include crackers, assorted flavored instant coffee, herbal teas, soup mixes and cookies.

Gift certificates also make welcome gifts: for groceries, haircuts, manicures, dry cleaning, restaurant meals, theater tickets and department stores. And don't forget prepaid calling cards.

Homemade coupons for "Honey-do's" (as in "Honey, do this —Honey, do that") also make thoughtful presents. Create some that can be redeemed for chores such as window washing, painting, gardening, replacing lightbulbs, changing air conditioning filters, moving heavy furniture for spring and fall cleaning and transportation for shopping or doctors' visits, etc.

Because not all seniors drive, bus passes and coupons for senior transportation or taxis can also give the recipient the gift of freedom.

Sweat pants, sweatshirts, athletic socks and walking shoes may motivate the sedentary senior to get up and become more active—which improves circulation and cognition for people of every age.

Large-print calendars with family birthdays, anniversaries, etc. marked and personalized with family photos make useful gifts, and so do large-print address books with the information already transferred from the recipient's records.

Because medications are expensive, consider a gift certificate to the neighborhood pharmacy. It will be appreciated—trust me on that.

A subscription to a newspaper or magazine you know the person will enjoy is a gift that keeps on giving year-round. And, of course, stationery and stamps make handy gifts that can also be used throughout the year. While you're at it, enclose with them some felt-tipped pens.

If the person has a pet, send some cans of dog or cat food, a package of "treats," a rawhide chew or catnip.

And please don't forget that the holiday season can be a depressing time for people who are alone. I'm often asked for gift ideas for the person who "already has everything." And this is my answer: The greatest gift a person can offer is the gift of yourself. If someone you know could use an outing, give the most meaningful gift of all—an invitation to share a meal with you or your family.

■■■

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Write Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

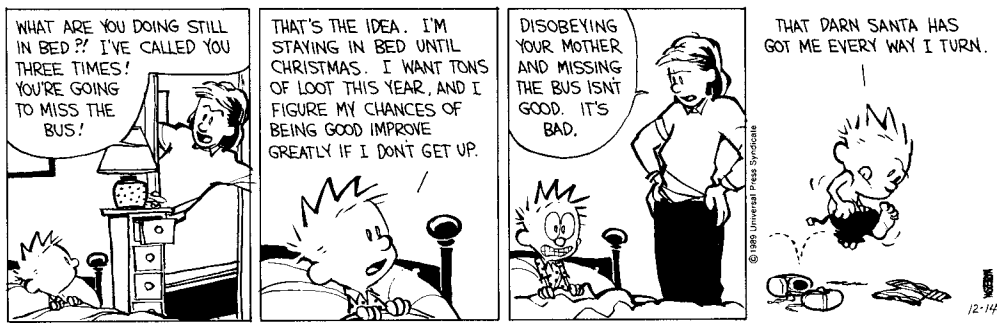
■■■

To order "How to Write Letters for All Occasions," send a business-sized, self-addressed envelope, plus check or money order for $6 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby – Letter Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Postage is included in the price.)

Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson


WHAT ARE YOU DOING STILL IN BED?! I'VE CALLED YOU THREE TIMES! YOU'RE GOING TO MISS THE BUS!
THAT'S THE IDEA. I'M STAYING IN BED UNTIL CHRISTMAS. I WANT TONS OF LOOT THIS YEAR, AND I FIGURE MY CHANCES OF BEING GOOD IMPROVE GREATLY IF I DON'T GET UP.
DISOBEYING YOUR MOTHER AND MISSING THE BUS ISN'T GOOD. IT'S BAD.
THAT DARN SANTA HAS GOT ME EVERY WAY I TURN.
© 1989 Universal Press Syndicate
12-14

Garfield®

By Jim Davis

"MERRY CHRISTMAS, FROM YOUR INSURANCE COMPANY"
THEY ALWAYS REMEMBER
"P.S. AND DON'T WEAR A NECKTIE NEAR THE BLENDER"
THEY REMEMBERED THAT, TOO
12-14
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www.garfield.com
Distributed by Universal Press Syndicate

Adam@home

By Bryan Basset

BOY, THIS TREE LOOKS PRETTY SMALL.
SMALL TREES NEED HOMES, TOO. HASN'T CHARLIE BROWN TAUGHT YOU ANYTHING?
12-14
AND IT'S SO LISTLESS.
I COULD...
YOU'RE NOT GIVING THAT POOR TREE COFFEE.
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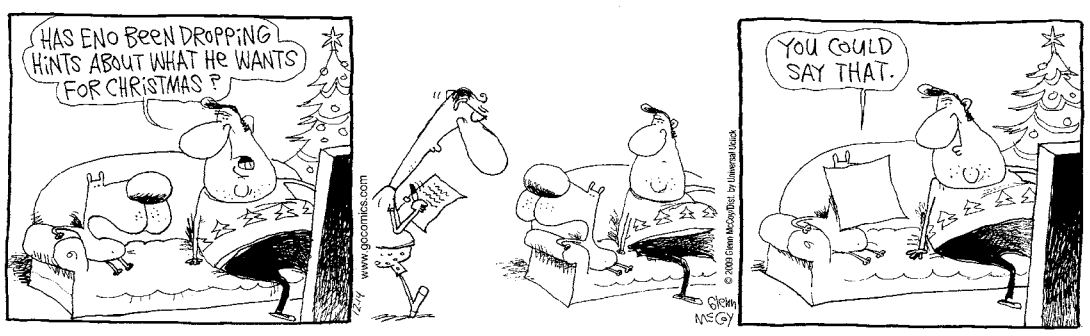
HARRELL

The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy


HAS ENO BEEN DROPPING HINTS ABOUT WHAT HE WANTS FOR CHRISTMAS?
YOU COULD SAY THAT.
www.gocomics.com
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GLENN MCCOY

CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

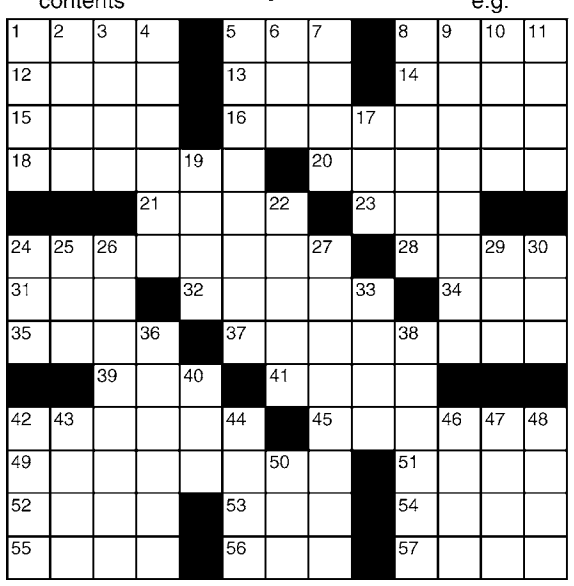
ACROSS
1 One of the Three B's
5 Express
8 Pond gunk
12 Franc replacement
13 Rhyming tribute
14 Poi base
15 Cupid's alias
16 Kale cousin
18 "The O'Reilly —"
20 Penetrable
21 Historic times
23 Hair-styling aid
24 Assembled in order, as pages
28 Puerto —
31 Literary collection
32 E G B D F, on a staff
34 Promptly
35 Pocket-protector contents
37 Reason for a fat lip?
39 Roman 201
41 Laugh-a-minute
42 Big scissors
45 Killed a bill
49 Tumble like a house of cards
51 Therefore
52 Reed instrument
53 Always, in 13-Across
54 Read quickly
55 Youngsters
56 Method
57 Gets some rays

DOWN
1 — Wellington
2 Emanation
3 Gator's kin
4 Inn
5 Of a Greek philosopher
6 Big bother
7 Kennel cry
8 Ogling one
9 Yuletide pastime
10 Language of Pakistan
11 Rolling stone's lack
17 Journal
19 Exam format
22 Man of La Mancha
24 Ball-player's hat
25 Single
26 Galahad's dad
27 UPS parcel, e.g.
29 Miler Sebastian
30 Possess
33 — gin fizz
36 Weighing devices
38 Swear (to)
40 A Gershwin
42 Edinburgh resident
43 Vagrant
44 Jet forth
46 Killer whale
47 New York cardinal
48 Dresses in
50 Mediterranean, e.g.

Solution time: 24 mins.

■	P	O	I	N	T	■	E	V	A	D	E	S
H	O	O	D	I	E	■	D	E	N	U	D	E
U	P	H	I	L	L	■	G	R	A	N	D	E
P	E	S	O	■	E	W	E	S	■	C	Y	D
■	■	■	M	A	T	E	■	O	D	E	■	■
P	A	S	■	T	H	A	I	■	I	C	E	D
E	X	T	R	A	O	R	D	I	N	A	R	Y
P	E	O	N	■	N	O	O	K	■	P	R	E
■	■	■	N	A	G	■	F	L	E	W	■	■
A	B	E	■	H	I	F	I	■	R	A	N	K
S	L	A	M	O	N	■	Z	E	A	L	O	T
A	U	G	U	S	T	■	E	M	C	E	E	S
P	R	E	S	T	O	■	D	U	K	E	S	■

Saturday's answer 12-14



STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call **1-900-226-5955**! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Dee Wallace Stone, 61; Patty Duke, 63; Jane Birkin, 63; Hal Williams, 71

Happy Birthday: You will be torn between having fun and being productive, so don't let your fun-loving, free-spirited side lead you in the wrong direction. Discipline will be the key to your success and advancement. Staying fit and maintaining a healthy diet and attitude can be accomplished if you make the right choices. Your numbers are 2, 12, 15, 21, 28, 39, 46

ARIES (*March 21-April 19*): Get your papers in order now so you aren't caught at year's end with too much to do and no time to do it. You will come into some money or a totally unexpected gift. Don't do something that really isn't your thing. ✪✪✪✪✪

TAURUS (*April 20-May 20*): Travel and intellectual events will bring you in contact with someone who interests you. Getting back to places you used to frequent will help you remember some of the goals you set that you haven't accomplished yet. ✪✪✪

GEMINI (*May 21-June 20*): Do whatever you can for others and you will get the help you need and deserve. Financial limitations can be expected if you are too generous or willing to take on responsibilities that belong to others. ✪✪✪

CANCER (*June 21-July 22*): Talks will lead to new possibilities. Put your efforts into work or picking up skills that will lead to a better position. A burden or responsibility that arises at home must not be taken on solely by you. ✪✪✪

LEO (*July 23-Aug. 22*): Develop your goals first and show, rather than describe, your plans. You will be able to secure your position with someone for whom you have feelings if you do something considerate. Turn a hobby or skill into a moneymaking project. ✪✪✪

VIRGO (*Aug. 23-Sept. 22*): A good friend will help you address a problem. A relationship that is important to you will experience difficulty if you have been neglectful. Talks will lead to a better understanding of what you can and cannot do. ✪✪

LIBRA (*Sept. 23-Oct. 22*): You will have some very creative ideas that can increase your income or that have the potential to save you some cash at tax time. Don't let your laziness or someone else's negativity stop you from doing the things you enjoy. ✪✪✪✪

SCORPIO (*Oct. 23-Nov. 21*): You will be passionate about your prospects and this should help you look clearly at the possibilities that exist. You may dislike change but, if things haven't been working for you lately, it may be just what you need. Don't fear the unknown. ✪✪✪

SAGITTARIUS (*Nov. 22-Dec. 21*): Someone may try to hide a surprise from you, so don't blow it by being inquisitive or suspicious. A financial deal looks promising if you follow through. Let your enthusiasm lead others to pitch in. ✪✪✪

CAPRICORN (*Dec. 22-Jan. 19*): Join in any professional festivities that you are invited to and you will make an interesting connection with someone who will alter your future. An unusual means to make some extra cash or a gift, settlement or reward of some sort will brighten your day. ✪✪✪

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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AQUARIUS (*Jan. 20-Feb. 18*): Not everyone will understand what you are trying to accomplish but, if you really believe in what you are doing, stick to it. The true test will come when you show your finished project. You have more potential than you realize. ✪✪✪✪

PISCES (*Feb. 19-March 20*): A love interest will capture your attention. You are likely to be used if you get emotionally caught up in what others do and want. Have faith in your own ability, desire and ideas. ✪✪

Birthday Baby: You are a fun-loving, playful person with a serious and progressive side. You know how to turn a negative into a positive.

Eugenia's Web sites: ***eugenialast.com*** *for confidential consultations,* ***myspace.com/eugenialast*** *for Eugenia's blog,* ***astroadvice.com*** *for fun*

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku *By Dave Green*

3	1		8			2		6
		7					8	
			6	5		9		7
7		5	2				1	
	3			8			4	
	6				5	3		2
9		3		7	8			
	8					4		
1		4			9		2	3

Difficulty Level ★ 12/14

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Saturday's SUDOKU Answer

9	3	2	4	8	5	7	1	6
7	8	4	1	2	6	9	5	3
1	5	6	3	9	7	8	2	4
5	6	8	2	4	1	3	9	7
2	9	1	7	3	8	6	4	5
3	4	7	5	6	9	1	8	2
8	2	9	6	7	4	5	3	1
4	7	5	9	1	3	2	6	8
6	1	3	8	5	2	4	7	9

Difficulty Level ★★★★ 12/12

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WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally, even backward. Find them and **CIRCLE THEIR LETTERS ONLY. DO NOT CIRCLE THE WORD.** The leftover letters spell the Wonderword.

BUYING NEW SCHOOL SUPPLIES **Solution: 8 letters**

H	S	B	R	E	B	M	E	T	P	E	S	E	T	S
A	S	L	E	R	A	S	E	R	U	L	E	R	R	N
N	R	C	I	S	O	R	E	D	R	O	A	E	E	E
D	O	D	O	C	H	G	R	S	E	S	S	A	W	Z
Y	S	T	E	L	N	A	L	T	H	E	O	D	A	O
P	S	D	E	R	O	E	R	O	N	O	N	Y	R	D
R	I	N	(Y)	B	A	R	P	P	S	I	W	G	D	I
O	C	E	D	(D)	O	P	S	A	E	S	A	O	C	S
D	S	R	K	E	(I)	O	E	M	C	N	Y	P	O	C
U	A	T	R	N	F	(T)	K	R	I	K	E	M	M	O
C	T	O	G	F	O	I	A	Z	P	N	A	R	P	U
T	T	A	I	P	T	Y	E	N	E	E	T	G	L	N
S	A	C	E	S	O	D	A	O	L	E	R	R	E	T
K	E	N	Y	N	I	H	S	T	N	E	D	U	T	S
P	R	I	S	T	I	N	E	R	E	H	C	A	E	T

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Cardboard, Colors, Complete, Crayons, Discounts, Dozen, Drawer, Eraser, Glossy, Handy, Kits, Mint, Neat, Need, Notebook, Office, Open, Order, Organized, Package, Paint, Pencils, Prepared, Pristine, Products, Ready, Reload, Ruler, Scissors, Season, September, Sets, Sharpener, Shiny, Shopping, Show, Store, Student, Teacher, Teen, Tidy, Trend

Last Saturday's Answer: Princess

To order THE COLLECTED WONDERWORD, Volume 15, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29 or 30, send $5.95 each (US funds only) payable to Universal Uclick plus $3 postage for the first book order. $1 p&h for each additional book. Send to WONDERWORD, 1130 Walnut St., Kansas City, Mo. 64106 or call toll-free, 1-800-642-6480. Order online at upuzzles.com.

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WHATZIT Solution:
Living on a shoestring

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Fina Sisu Apt., 2-BR, 1-BTH, FF, AC, BU Genset/ 24-hr water, security, laundry room, free Wi-Fi & ample parking. Right behind NMC campus. MIHA applicants accepted. Special rates for NMC faculty/ students. Call 235-6527/8 or 285-1317 for info.

FOR SALE

Pigs for Sale
Good for lechon ($2.50/lb.)
Please call 287-4568

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

DONALDD BUFTON, Plaintiff,] CIVIL ACTION NO. 04-0043
-v-]
SAMUEL RAYBURN, Defendant.]

SIXTH AMENDED NOTICE OF SALE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that, pursuant to a Writ of Execution issued by the Court in this matter on October 12, 2007, I will set, at public auction, to the highest bidder, on the terms and conditions set forth hereinbelow, all of the right, title, and interest of Defendants in and the to following property:

1. Lot No 012 B 08, situated in Calabera, Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands, containing 39,297 square meters, more or less, as more particularly described on Drawing/Cadastral Plat No. 012 B 01, which was registered with the Land Registry as Document No. 1466 on the 15th of March, 1972.
2. Tract 22609(formerly H-65), situated in Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands, containing an are of 10,845 square meters, more or less, as more particularly described on Drawing/Cadastral Plat No. 2165/74, the original of which was registered June 15, 1976 as Land Registry Document No. 5272.
3. Tract 22610 (formerly H-65 A), situated in Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands, containing an area of 13,558 square meters, more or less, as more particularly described on Drawing/Cadastral Plat No.2164/74, the original of which was registered June 15, 1976 as Land Registry Document No. 5272.
4. Lot E.A. 579, situated in Laulau, Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands, containing an area of 10,056 square meters, more or less, being situated in Land Square Seven, Section R, Units u and v, and Land Square Ten, Section 1, Units a and b, as shown on APWO Drawings No. 11411 and 11414 on file with the Clerk of Courts (being all that property conveyed by that Grant of Public Domain from the Government of the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands to Joaquin I. Pangelinan executed April 18, 1956 and filed April 25, 1956 at the Clerk of Courts).
5. Tract/Lot No.H-378, situated in Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands, containing an area of 27,537 square meters, more or less, as shown on Division of Lands & Surveys Official survey plat no. 2136/89 dated August 10, 1989, Commonwealth Recorder's File No. 89-2641, the description therein being incorporated herein by reference.
6. Tract/Lot No. H-378 "A", situated in Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands, containing an area of 1,585 square meters, more or less, as shown on Division of Lands & Surveys Official survey plat no. 2136/89 dated August 10, 1989, Commonwealth Recorder's File No. 89-2641, the description therein being incorporated herein by reference.
7. Lot 001 C 10, situated in Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands, containing an area of 9,999 square meters, more or less, as more particularly described on Drawing/Cadastral Plat No. 001 C 01, the original of which was recorded with the Commonwealth Recorder on March 20, 1980, as Document No. 9811.
8. Lot 001 C 16 (part of original Lot 001 C 06), situated in Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands, containing an area of 14,579 square meters, more or less, as more particularly described on Drawing/Cadastral Plat No. 001 C 04, the original of which was recorded with the Commonwealth Recorder on June 13, 1986, as Document No. 86-1187.
9. Lot 012 J 13, Parcel "A", situated in Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands, consisting of the northern portion of Lot 012 J 13, and containing an area of 2,319 square meters, more or less.

Date, Time, and Place of Sale. The sale will be held on Friday, January 8, 2010, at the hour of 1:30 p.m., at the Law offices of Michael A. White, LLC. Joeten Center, Susupe, Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands. The sale will be open to the general public.

Terms and Conditions of Sale. The terms and Conditions of Sale may be obtained from the undersigned, either prior to or at the sale. These terms and conditions shall govern the conduct of the sale.

DATED, this 8th day of December, 2009

/s/ MICHAEL A. WHITE, Auctioneer

TJM
Lawn Care Services
WE OFFER
$30.00
per house 500 sqm
(negotiable)
Contact: Tahira S. Miah
Tel: 288-8897
Cel: 287-8896

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

THE FINANCIAL & INSURANCE SERVICES GROUP, INC., Plaintiff,) CIVIL ACTION NO. 09-0458
-v-
DONALD C. CAMACHO, Defendant.) SUMMONS FOR PUBLICATIONS

TO THE ABOVE-NAMED DEFENDANT:

YOU ARE HEREBY SUMMONED and notified to file any answer you wish to make to the Complaint, a copy of which is served upon you hereby, within twenty-one (21) days after the fourth publication of this Summons, and to deliver or mail a copy of your answer to The Law Offices of Michael A. White, LLC, the Plaintiff's Attorneys, whose address is P.O. Box 5222, Saipan, MP 96950, as soon as practicable after filing your answer or sending it to the Clerk of Courts for filing.

Your answer should be in writing and filed with the Clerk of this Court at Susupe, Saipan. It may be prepared and signed for you by your counsel and sent to the Clerk of this Court by messenger or mail. It is not necessary for you to appear personally until further notice. If you fail to answer in accordance with this Summons, judment by default may be taken against you for the relief of demanded in the Complaint.

By order of the above court:

/s/ Deputy Clerk of Court

DATED, this 2nd day of December, 2009:

DANILO T. AGUILAR, F0198
Attorney at Law
P.O. Box 505301
First Floor, San Jose Court Bldg.
Cor. Ghiyeghi St. & Wischira Way
San Jose, Saipan, MP 96950
TELEPHONE: (670) 234-8801
FAX: (670) 234-1251

Attorney for Plaintiff
WELLS FARGO FINANCIAL SAIPAN, INC.

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

WELLS FARGO FINANCIAL, Plaintiff,) CIVIL ACTION NO. 09-0274-CV
FRANCISCO A. DELA CRUZ AND PRICSCILLA B. DELA CRUZ Defendants.) ORDER TO APPEAR OR PLEAD (7 CMC § 1301)

TO: Francisco A. Dela Cruz and Priscilla B. Dela Cruz, THE ABOVE NAMED DEFENDANTS

PURSUANT TO 7 CMC § 1301, YOU ARE HEREBY ORDERED to make your appearance or file any answer you wish to make to the Complaint filed with Commonwealth Superior Court, within 30 days from the service date. You are instructed to make your appearance before the Clerk of Courts or mail a copy of your answer to the Complaint to the Law Office of Danilo T. Aguilar, whose address is P.O. Box 505301, Saipan MP 96950, as soon as practicable after filing your answer or sending it to the Clerk of Courts for filing. You may obtain a copy of the Complaint by contacting Plaintiff counsel of record.

If you choose to file an answer, your answer should be in writing and filed with the Clerk of Court at the Guma Hustisia, Susupe, Saipan, MP 96950. It may be prepared for you by your counsel and sent to the Clerk of the court by messenger of mail.

If you fail to make your appearance or file an answer in accordance with this Order To Appear or Plead, a default judgment will be entered against you for the relief of the Complaint

A copy of this Order is to be published at a newspaper of general circulation, once a week for two consecutive weeks. In addition, a copy of this Order shall be posted in two (2) conspicuous places for a period of not less than two weeks.

SO ORDERED this 6th day of November, 2009.

/s/ RAMONA V. MANGLONA
Associate Judge

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Ramifications for Woods and his sport unfolding

NEW YORK (AP)--Stewart Cink was at a birthday party when he learned about Tiger Woods taking an indefinite leave from golf. A friend had the news on his cell phone, and even as the page loaded with the announcement, Cink figured a punch line was coming.

Then he noticed a text message on his own phone, along with four or five voice mails from the media.

"That's when I knew this was serious, and not just another joke," Cink said Saturday. "I didn't really have a reaction. I really wasn't surprised. It's probably the right thing for him to do."

How serious is it for golf without its biggest star?

The ramifications for Woods and his sport began to unfold Saturday. One of his sponsors, Gillette, said it won't feature the world's richest athlete in its marketing campaign while Woods takes time off to repair his personal life.

He has been married to Elin Nordegren for five years, and they have a 2-year-old daughter and a 10-month-old son.

"This is supporting his desire to step out of the public eye and we're going to support him by helping him to take a lower profile," Gillette spokesman Damon Jones said.

Such a move will be far more difficult for the PGA Tour. Woods has been the face of golf for more than a decade, and the sport had no trouble pitching its squeaky-clean image behind a star who had avoided even a hint of scandal. Woods' world has imploded over the last two weeks, however, with lurid tales from alleged mistresses and Woods admitting to the "disappointment and hurt" his infidelity caused so many, starting with his family.

"It's probably damaged the game to a degree," Greg Norman, golf's biggest draw in the generation before Woods, said at his Shark Shootout in Naples, Fla. "I get texts from family members whose kids idolize Tiger, and they don't want to tell them because they don't want to pollute their minds with what's happened."

While many questions remain about exactly what did happen - over the course of Woods' marriage and the Nov. 27 car crash just outside his home - his decision Friday to take an "indefinite break" from golf has fans and his colleagues buzzing about when or if he'll return.

AP

Tiger Woods reacts after missing a par putt in the sixteenth hole during the final round of the Dunlop Phoenix Tournament at the Phoenix Country Club in Miyazaki, western Japan, in this Nov. 19, 2006 file photo.

"It's a scary vision. It's a very scary vision," Ryder Cup player Graeme McDowell said. "We're under no illusions. We're much more prosperous golfers for having Tiger Woods playing in our era."

RELATED NEWS

■ Woods' time-out to hurt Tiger Inc. **Page 17**

■ Two weeks that shattered a legend. **Page 20**

No one knows how long Woods will be gone. Everyone does know Woods' absence will be costly.

A year ago, he missed eight months, including two majors and a Ryder Cup, while recovering from reconstructive surgery on his left knee.

"Just the absence itself, we've been through that," Cink said. "I don't think it's any rocket science in saying him not being involved in golf for a while is going to hurt ratings. He's exciting. And him not being there makes it less exciting.

"No one can take the place of Tiger Woods out there," he said. "The rest of us are going to have to put on a better show."

The PGA Tour already has 33 tournaments scheduled for network television in 2010, with 10 more on the Golf Channel. When Woods was out with his knee injury, ratings typically plunged 50 percent.

The ratings Woods attracted is what helped the tour negotiate blockbuster deals with the networks that allowed prize money to quadruple since he arrived. Most believe ratings won't suffer from his Woods' image being tarnished, and might even improve whenever he does return because of all the publicity.

"I honestly don't think Tiger is going to come back earlier because we need him to come back. He's going to come back when he fixes his problems," Brad Faxon said. "It's a bit of a worry, but we've survived for a long time. Like Greg (Norman) said the other night, nobody's bigger than the game. You could put, 'Comma, except for Tiger' in a lot of situations. But we will survive this."

Former CBS Sports president Neal Pilson said the networks' loss in ad revenue will be much less severe than the drop in ratings.

Companies that advertise around golf are attracted by the demographics of the sport's core fans, said Pilson, who now runs his own consulting business. Most of those fans watch golf whether Woods is involved or not. The casual fans who tune in only when Woods is in contention aren't the viewers these advertisers are targeting.

"While you may have a 50 percent increase in viewership, a lot of that 50 percent is just bonus," he said.

Even so, these are uncertain times.

"Clearly, whenever you have your main Clydesdale go down ... it wasn't good for us last year and it's not good for us this year," said Joe Ogilvie, who previously served on the tour's policy board. "It makes us rethink the entire golf industry. It's very easy when you have him to get fat. You have the greatest draw in sports and you think he's always going to be there. To a certain extent, it should make you think, 'What does golf have to do to get lean?'"

Woods taking an indefinite leave could mean reduced visibility in advertising, especially if more sponsors take Gillette's lead. None of his TV commercials has aired since Nov. 29, although such spots are rare during a slow time of the year in golf.

"I think that this probably is a win-win for his sponsors who were trying to figure out how they were going to manage their relationship with Tiger given the substantial and significant fall from grace," sports attorney David Cornwell said. "By absenting himself from the public arena, it gives them a chance to pull back and gives everybody a chance to take a deep breath."

Some sponsors, such as Nike, are still sticking with Woods.

Woods has been with Nike longer than any other corporate sponsor—"Hello, world" was the campaign Nike ran when Woods turn pro in 1996—and it pledged "full support" while waiting for his return.

Woods already was on leave from golf, not expected to play even in good times until the last week in January at Torrey Pines. His decision Friday evening left everyone wondering when they would see him again.

"We need him out here," Mark Calcavecchia said at the Shark Shootout in Naples, Fla. "What he's done for our tour and the game of golf over the last 13 years is unparalleled, really. So we'll see how long it takes and whenever he's ready, he'll come back. Hopefully, he'll have smooth sailing and he'll be better than ever."

For now, Woods remains in a self-imposed exile; his whereabouts unknown. He has not been seen in public since the Nov. 27 car accident set off his shockingly swift downfall.

His yacht "Privacy" was docked at the Old Port Cove Marina in North Palm Beach, Fla. on Saturday. His wife, meanwhile, is the new owner of a six-bedroom house on a small island near Stockholm that can only be reached by boat.

Stenake Johansson, chairman of the Residential Association on Faglaro island, said Woods' wife, Elin, became the owner Dec. 1, one day before Woods first confessed to "personal failings." Johansson, who did not know whether the couple and their children planned to move in, said negotiations most likely started shortly after the house was put on the market in August.

Wang, Atkins, Cust become free agents

NEW YORK (AP)—Former ace Chien-Ming Wang, power-hitting Jack Cust and slumping third baseman Garrett Arkins joined an already saturated free agent market when they weren't offered contracts for next year by their teams on Saturday.

Closers Mike MacDougal and Matt Capps along with starter Tim Redding were also among 39 players allowed to go free. All but 12 of them would have been eligible for salary arbitration if they had been offered contracts.

The Los Angeles Angels let loose Jose Arredondo amid reports he needed Tommy John surgery and would miss all of next season.

Fourteen other players agreed to one-year contracts, including three Kansas City pitchers and three players on the Tampa Bay Rays.

Teams can re-sign players they let go, and the rule limiting salary cuts to 20 percent does not apply after they become free.

In a slow-moving market, just 32 of the 171 players who filed for free agency after the World Series are known to have agreements for next season.

Others let go included Cincinnati outfielder Jonny Gomes; Chicago White Sox reliever D.J. Carrasco; Atlanta outfielder Ryan Church and second baseman Kelly Johnson; Boston outfielder Brian Anderson; Mets outfielders Jeremy Reed and Cory Sullivan; and Phillies pitcher Clay Condrey.

Among players recovering from surgery, Chicago Cubs left-hander Neal Cotts, Milwaukee right-hander Mark DiFelice and Washington left-hander Scott Olsen were let loose. DiFelice was not eligible for arbitration.

While more than 200 players were eligible for arbitration during the World Series, Saturday's moves left about 150 remaining.

Arbitration-eligible players agreeing to contracts, including the trio of Royals: Brian Bannister ($2.3 million), Kyle Davies ($1.8 million) and Roman Colon ($665,000 in majors and $240,000 in minors).

The three Rays getting deals were catcher Dioner Navarro ($2.1 million), right-hander Lance Cormier ($1.2 million) and left-hander Randy Choate ($700,000).

Also agreeing were San Diego right-hander Kevin Correia ($3.6 million), Atlanta outfielder Matt Diaz ($2.55 million), Pittsburgh infielder Ronny Cedeno ($1,125,000), Florida catcher Ronny Paulino ($1.1 million), Baltimore right-handers Cla Meredith ($850,000) and Matt Albers ($680,000 in majors and $275,000 in minors), newly acquired Boston pitcher Boof Bonser ($650,000) and Texas infielder Esteban German ($600,000/$200,000).

Wang, a 29-year-old right-hander, was a 19-game winner in 2006 and 2007, starting the Yankees' postseason openers in both years. He hasn't been the same since severely injuring his right foot while running the bases at Houston on June 15, 2008.

"We're disappointed. We'll obviously consider all offers as a free agent, as all free agents do," said Wang's agent, Alan Nero.

Wang wound up 1-6 with a 9.64 ERA this year and Dr. James Andrews repaired a tear in the right shoulder capsule on July 29. Wang is not expected to be able to pitch until sometime between April and June.

He made $5 million this year, a $1 million raise over his salary in 2008, when he lost in arbitration.

"There's no doubt that we had to make a tough decision," general manager Brian Cashman said in a statement. "We are still hopeful that our relationship can continue, but those decisions are yet to be made."

Cust hit .240 with 25 homers and 70 RBIs for Oakland last season, when he made $2.8 million. He struck out 195 times, becoming the first player to lead in the AL in three straight seasons since Minnesota's Bobby Darwin from 1972-74. Cust whiffed 164 times in 2007 and 197 times in 2008.

He had 26 homers in 2007 and 33 the following year, and has topped Oakland for three consecutive seasons in homers, strikeouts and walks (93 last season).

Atkins, who turned 30 on Saturday, has spent his entire seven-year major league career with the Rockies. The third baseman batted .226 this year with nine homers and 48 RBIs after hitting .286 with 21 homers and 99 RBIs in 2008. Atkins, who made $7.05 million, lost the third-base job to Ian Stewart by the end of the season.

Atkins had a career-high 29 homers and 120 RBIs in 2006, when he was fourth in the NL with a .329 average, and batted .301 with 25 homers and 111 RBIs the following year.

Williams, Jazz snap Lakers' streak

SALT LAKE CITY (AP)— Deron Williams scored eight straight points to start the fourth quarter and finished with 21 points and 11 assists as Utah snapped the Lakers' 11-game winning streak, 102-94.

Utah took advantage as Kobe Bryant struggled with a fractured index finger from a game the night before. The Jazz held Bryant to 16 points on 7 of 24 shooting. Bryant didn't score in the second half until less than five minutes remained in the game and Utah was up by 15.

The Jazz also avenged a loss to the Lakers in Los Angeles on Wednesday, when Utah scored just six points in the fourth quarter.

AP

Utah Jazz guard Deron Williams, left, goes to the hoop while being defended by Los Angeles Lakers center Andrew Bynum during the second half of their NBA basketball game Saturday, Dec. 12, 2009, in Salt Lake City. The Jazz beat the Lakers, 102-94.

Celtics 106, Bulls 80

At Chicago, Rajon Rondo had 16 points and 14 assists, and the Boston Celtics won their 10th straight, beating the struggling Chicago Bulls 106-80 on Saturday.

Rasheed Wallace and Eddie House scored 15 apiece, Kevin Garnett added 12 points and 10 rebounds, and Paul Pierce scored 14 even though he sustained a stinger on his right shoulder and hit just 4 of 12 shots.

Boston scored 10 straight late in the third quarter, making it a 20-point game and sending the Bulls to their 10th loss in 12 games.

Derrick Rose scored 19 for Chicago. Luol Deng added 17 but missed 4 of 6 free throws late in the third quarter, and the Bulls capped a particularly brutal seven-day stretch with another blowout loss.

Nuggets 105, Suns 99

At Denver, Carmelo Anthon scored 32 points and Chauncey Billups shook off an awful first half to lead Denver.

Billups, whose first half included three turnovers and three fouls, scored 24 points and sank five 3-pointers in the second. His turnover with 30 seconds left and the Nuggets leading 101-99 however gave the Suns a shot at a rare win in Denver.

Steve Nash, who scored 28 points, missed a driving layup with seven seconds left and Anthony ended up with the ball and was fouled with two seconds remaining. Suns coach Alvin Gentry hollered at an official and was ejected.

Anthony sank all four free throws.

Mavericks 98, Bobcats 97, OT

At Dallas, Dirk Nowitzki hit a 10-foot jumper with 1.8 seconds left in overtime, and Dallas improves to 11-0 all-time against Charlotte.

Nowitzki scored 36 points, including 18 in the fourth quarter and overtime. He hit a fadeaway over Boris Diaw from the left elbow, capping a frantic ending where the teams exchanged the lead six times in the final minute.

Stephen Jackson scored 28 points for Charlotte but missed badly on a 3-point attempt that could have won it just before the buzzer.

Pacers 114, Wizards 113

At Washington, Mike Dunleavy benefited from a replay review and made two free throws with one-tenth of a second left for Indiana, which overcame a Gilbert Arenas triple-double.

Arenas' big night was marred when he missed two free throws in the closing seconds of a tight game for the second time in three nights, leaving the Wizards up by only one.

Dunleavy was fouled as time expired and a review put one-tenth of a second on the clock before he made both shots.

Arenas finished with 22 points, 10 rebounds and 11 assists for his fourth career triple-double and first since March 19, 2004.

Kings 120, Timberwolves 100

At Sacramento, Jason Thompson had 23 points and 13 rebounds and Sacramento snapped a four-game losing streak.

Tyreke Evans scored 18 points and Beno Udrih had 16 points and seven assists for the Kings.

Al Jefferson had 26 points and 11 rebounds for Minnesota, which has lost four straight and is 3-21 overall under rookie coach Kurt Rambis.

Pistons 104, Warriors 95

At Auburn Hills, Rodney Stuckey scored 29 points and Charlie Villanueva added 24 as Detroit won its fifth straight game.

Pistons guard Richard Hamilton played after missing 21 games with a sprained right ankle and had 18 points in 37 minutes.

Monta Ellis led Golden State with 29 points, while reserve Corey Maggette added 23 and rookie Stephen Curry scored 19.

Bucks 108, Trail Blazers 101, 2OT

At Milwaukee, Luke Ridnour scored six of his 20 points in the second overtime and the Milwaukee Bucks snapped a four-game losing streak.

Andrew Bogut tied his season high with 27 points, and Brandon Jennings added 18 for the Bucks, who snapped a five-game skid against Portland dating to Dec. 6, 2006

LaMarcus Aldridge scored 31 points and Brandon Roy added 23 points for Portland.

Ingram delivers Alabama its first Heisman

NEWYORK(AP)— Mark Ingram dabbed his eyes, took a deep breath and tried to steady himself. All set, he accepted the Heisman that completes Alabama's trophy case.

The tough-running tailback turned tearful after winning the Heisman Trophy on Saturday night in the closest vote in the award's 75-year history. Next, he'll try to lead the most storied program in the South to a national championship.

Ingram finished 28 points ahead of Stanford running back Toby Gerhart.

The sturdy, 212-pound Ingram took a moment to get composed before starting his speech. Dressed in a dark suit with blue pinstripes, his voice wavered throughout.

"I'm a little overwhelmed right now," he said. "I'm just so excited to bring Alabama their first Heisman winner."

Ingram received 227 first-place votes and 1,304 points. Gerhart got 222 first-place votes and 1,276 points, while Texas quarterback Colt McCoy, last season's runner-up, received 203 and 1,145.

Ingram said later he was feeling relaxed—right up until the winner was announced.

"When he started reading that letter, my heart started beating and I could feel it beating real fast," he said. "When he called my name I was excited, then I saw my mom crying and it kind of made me break down, too."

His father, a former Super Bowl star, was a few miles away. Incarcerated on bank fraud and money-laundering charges, he watched his son's big win on a prison television.

AP

Alabama running back Mark Ingram poses for a photo during a press conference after winning the Heisman Trophy award on Saturday, Dec. 12, 2009, in New York.

Nebraska defensive tackle Ndamukong Suh was fourth and Florida quarterback Tim Tebow, who won the Heisman two years ago, was fifth.

The previous closest vote in Heisman history came in 1985, when Auburn's Bo Jackson beat Iowa quarterback Chuck Long by 45 points.

Ingram won four of the six regions. Gerhart took the far west and Suh won the southwest.

"I appreciate the way he plays," said Gerhart, who ran for 1,736 yards and scored 26 touchdowns. "The passion for the game. I'm a physical guy, he's a physical guy. I feel we're similar in a lot of ways. I'm proud of him and honored to be included with him."

Ingram has been the backbone of Alabama's offense, rushing for a school-record 1,542 yards, gaining 6.2 yards per carry and scoring 18 touchdowns.

And in his final chance to make a case for the Heisman, facing Florida's then-top-ranked defense, Ingram ran for 113 yards and scored three touchdowns to punctuate his season.

The win sent the top-ranked Crimson Tide to the BCS national title game against McCoy and No. 2 Texas on Jan. 7 at the Rose Bowl.

"This is a great, special moment for me but at the same time you've got to move forward," Ingram said. "We still have a national championship game to play in."

Ingram hugged family members and Alabama coach Nick Saban after winning, and went to the podium. As he searched for the proper words, several former Heisman winners standing behind him offered encouragement, saying "take your time" and "it's all right."

Ingram thanked everyone he could think of, including teammates, coaches, trainers, support staff, an intern and his school teachers.

Ingram is the third consecutive sophomore to win the Heisman since Tebow became the first in 2007 and he will be the sixth winner in the last seven years to go on to play in the BCS national championship game.

Few college football teams can match Alabama's history of success. The Crimson Tide dominated the Southeastern Conference for decades. With six AP national championships, only Notre Dame and Oklahoma have won more.

But at Alabama, it's a coach who has towered over the program more than any player.

Bear Bryant led some of college football's greatest players - from Joe Namath to John Hannah, Ken Stabler to Ozzie Newsome - but never had a player even finish in the top three of the Heisman voting over his more than three decades at Alabama.

"The legacy of Alabama football certainly had a void filled," Saban said.

David Palmer, the shifty receiver and return man, was third in the Heisman voting in 1993, the best finish by a Crimson Tide player.

No major college program had won more games without a Heisman winner.

"Everybody that's been in the Alabama family has been supporting me," Ingram said before hoisting the bronze statue. "Walking to class, students flashed me the Heisman pose."

Now he can take his place among Alabama's greats and the Paul W. Bryant Museum has a new piece of a hardware to display.

"I'm sure it'll be in the trophy cases with all those national championships and all the other awards people have won," he said later.

The announcement that Ingram had won came minutes before the Alabama men's basketball team was set to host No. 5 Purdue, prompting an immediate roar from the mostly full Coleman Coliseum.

Even though the presentation wasn't shown on the videoboard, fans instantly found out the news. The public-address announcer congratulated Ingram early in the game, bringing another big ovation. One young fan sat at courtside sporting a 22 jersey—Ingram's number—with "Heisman" across the top.

Gatdula secures Fil-Taga November Ace

Newcomer Jason Gatdula made it to the 2009 Golfer of the Year Tournament after winning the Fil-Taga Golfers Association November Ace held last Nov. 22 at the Marianas Country Club.

Home field couldn't be more sweeter for the Marianas Resort and Spa employee as he shot a net 72 on the strength of his gross 93 and 21 handicap.

Richard Meimban actually shot a lower post gross score than Gatdula with his net 64, but had to yield the monthly championship to the 30-year-old as the former already won earlier this year. The 25-handicap Meimban shot a gross of 89.

Ted Malaran came in third in the November tourney with his net 73, built around his 91 gross and 18 handicap.

A total of nine Fil-Taga members took part in the November Ace. The rest of the participants, with their net scores in parenthesis, were as follows: Larry Pascual (74); John Matsumoto (75); Mando Guban (76); Jhun Calma (77); Alsree Chiong (77); and Greg Gamboa (85).

With Gatdula's triumph in the November Ace he joins other monthly winners for the 2009 Fil-Taga Golfer of the Year Tournament set for January 2010. Already assured of slots for the season-ending event are Guban, Pascual, Mike Cruz, Joe Miranda, Freddie Cataluna, Nono Bostre, Matutino Adony, Jhun Ortiz, and Nestor Siruelo.

Established in 1993, Fil-Taga's tournaments operate under a computer-controlled handicap system that creates parity among players in the A and B Flights.

A Fil-Taga Ace of the Month champion is crowned monthly. Regular tournaments are scheduled once a month, normally every third Sunday. Green fees are in the $35 to $40 price range for most tournaments.

Its 2008-2009 set of officers are led by president Mike Cruz, vice president Jhun Calma, secretary Manny Po, treasurer Arnaldo Guban, and board of directors Fr. Manny Corcuera , Jhun Dela Cruz, Ted Malaran, Gil Faller, Rey Ferraz, Greg De Torres, Rene Batallones, Nestor Siruelo, and George Sablan. ***(Saipan Tribune)***

25th anniversary hash this Saturday

After 1,300 runs and hiking almost every single bit of land on Saipan, the Saipan Hash House Harriers will be celebrating 25 years of hashing on Dec. 18.

Organizers said $100 will get a participant whole weekend of activities beginning with a welcoming cocktail party from 5pm to 8pm on Friday, Dec. 18, which will include food and drinks.

It will be followed on Saturday, Dec. 19, by the 25th anniversary hash. Meeting place for the hash is as usual at Bank of Guam parking lot in Garapan at 3pm.

Organizers said there will be an eagle (hard) and turkey (not so hard) trail, followed by a sumptuous buffet dinner with lots of food and drink as well as music and dancing.

On Sunday, Dec. 20, there will be a recovery hash followed by a pot luck picnic. Palms Resort Saipan will provide the venue for the parties and will also have special room rates.

There will also be a Darkside (pub crawl) hash on Friday night after the cocktail party, however, this is pay as you go.

For more information about the 25th anniversary hash, contact Bobbie Grizzard at 322-9464. ***(PR)***

MP UNITED

From Page 28

nity to score," Swaim said.

In the remaining minutes after Swaim canned his second goal, MP United wisely used the clock and prevented Inter Godfather's from going near the penalty box for a shot.

Earlier in the first half, Arkie Reusora gave Inter Godfather's a 1-0 lead when he nailed the first goal of the game in the 31st minute. However, Inter could not hang on to the lead, as it failed to neutralize Swaim.

MP United had several chances to score in the second half, but Inter goalie Evan Hunsberger made a couple of saves before Swain finally hit one.

MP United was awarded a trophy after topping the five-team tournament. Team captain Tiger Lee received the championship trophy from Northern Mariana Islands Football Association president Jerry Tan in a brief ceremony yesterday.

Joining Lee and Swaim on the champion team are Bradley and Richard Brostrom, Joe Miller, Kirk Schuler, Dae Min and Dae Won Jeon, goalie Mafijul Islam, Hong Moon Bin, Adam Hardwicke, Lim Jae Hyuck, Yukiomo Adachi, Joel Jimenez, and Peter Bonser.

MP United advanced to the finals after whipping Korean Football Association of Saipan in the semifinals, 5-1. In that win, Swaim also tallied two goals, while Miller, Bradley Brostrom, and Adachi added one each. Jang Sun Sik was the lone scorer for KFAS.

Inter Godfather's was pitted against Independents in the semifinals and also nailed a 5-1 victory. Drilling one goal apiece for Inter in its semis win were Chris Nelson, Masatoshi Otsuka, John Duenas, Matthew Holley, and Reusora. Jason Schroeder scored the lone goal for Independents.

HYATT

From Page 28

However, the depleted Hyatt crew gallantly fought PSS for 50 grueling minutes and eked out a tough win to remain in contention for a finals seat. PSS was pushed to the exit door, having lost twice in the playoffs, bowing first to Department of Community and Cultural Affairs before absorbing another sorry loss at the hands of Hyatt.

Yosh Gabaldon was held to only a field goal in regulation, but canned two crucial triples in the second overtime to finally hand Hyatt the win. Nate Mateo also made clutch baskets in the second extension period, hitting six points. Gino Libuw drilled the other field goal for Hyatt in the second overtime.

Bobby Coldeen was the lone PSS player to score in the second overtime, tallying six points.

In the first overtime, playing coach Ray Lizama scored five of Hyatt's seven points to send the game into another extension period. Mel Manibusan nailed four in the first overtime before fouling out in the second, while Derrick Aughenbaugh logged three markers.

Regulation ended at 73-all with Lizama and Mateo joining forces and trading baskets with PSS' Joe Villacrusis and Peter Mendiola. Mendiola then fouled out midway in the first overtime, failing to help the team's cause in the next five minutes of the game.

Mendiola and Aughenbaugh gave PSS a good start, combining for 12 points in the first quarter and lifting their team to a 21-15 lead. Aughenbaugh continued to find his target and matched Sablan's successive baskets for Hyatt to keep PSS in the driver's seat at halftime, 40-34.

Sablan managed to score a free throw in the third period before leaving the court due to a broken wrist. Sablan bulldozed his way to the basket against the burly Jacob Villagomez and was called for a charging foul. To make matters worse, Sablan broke his left wrist, which he used as cushion when he fell to the floor.

Francis Hartmen replaced Sablan and Lizama and Mateo were forced to take charge in absence of their injured teammate. Lizama scored 10 points in the third canto and Mateo chipped in six to put Hyatt on top, 52-51.

Mateo and Lizama then found an ally in Gino Libuw in the fourth canto to keep pace with PSS. Libuw made six of his 10 points in the fourth period and in the second overtime, it was Gabaldon's turn to help Mateo and Lizama.

Mateo finished with a game-high 31 points, while Lizama contributed 26. Sablan scored 17 before his bad fall.

In the second game, both Tinian and NTT Docomo had a no-show and referees who waited for the two teams for several minutes ruled a double forfeit.

The winner of the Tinian-Docomo tiff is supposed to meet Hyatt in the semifinals of the loser's bracket today. League organizers have yet to announce what to do with the scheduled game tonight, following the no-show from Docomo and Tinian.

Hyatt 93 – N. Mateo 31, Lizama 26, Sablan 17, Libuw 10, Gabaldon 9.

PSS 86 – Aughenbaugh 21, Mendiola 19, Villacrusis 16, Manibusan 13, Coldeen 11, Itibus 6.

Scoring by quarters: 15-21, 34-40, 52-51, 73-73, 80-80 (1OT), 93-86 (2OT).

UOL

From Page 28

in the ensuing play.

Cosino was fouled anew and this timed muffed both free throws, but Villarin was there for the offensive rebound and putback, giving UoL more breathing space, 94-88, with less than a minute left in the game.

Yalung then made another booboo when he lost possession while trying to dribble out of UoL defenders, paving the way for a Villarin layup.

However, thinking that the game was already over, Loyola returned to its complacent mode, allowing David Fer three uncontested layups. Fer's last layup cut the lead to three, 101-98, before Cosino went up for a fastbreak play. The UoL center missed, but grabbed the offensive rebound, tried again and this time made it and drew a foul from Warren Villegas.

Cosino completed the 3-point play to finally end GEC's hopes for an upset, as UoL led by six, 104-98, with only 10 seconds remaining in the game.

Villarin topscored for UoL with 22 points and lifted his team to the solo lead. Loyola now holds a 5-1 record, a win ahead of Ebisuya.

Cosino chipped in 19 for Loyola, which got 15 points from Ariel Jinang. Ferdie Dela Torre and James Abuy had 14 apiece with the latter making up for the absence of Jun Tabora.

Alex Ocampo and Villegas paced GEC with 25 markers each, but the latter was held to only four points in the fourth period.

In the head meets tail open division game, league-leading Diamond Ali'i outclassed New City International Construction in the fourth quarter en route to an 86-81 win.

The victory was Diamond's fifth in six games, while the loss was NCIC's fifth in as many matches.

Despite its underdog tag, NCIC kept pace with Diamond and even took a 24-16 lead in the first period when Joem Abenoja scored 10 points in the opening quarter.

Diamond then slowly found its rhythm in the succeeding periods and even started pulling off in the fourth quarter, leading at 79-68 before a determined NCIC cut the lead to as low as three, 79-76. However, baskets from Elmer J.R. Barrios, Mel Capalad, and Brendon Talania in the last two minutes foiled NCIC's comeback bids.

Masters

UoL 104 – Villarin 22, Cosino 19, Jinang 15, Abuy 14, De La Torre 14, Manalili 6, Bicera 6, Moran 2, Puri 2, Salazar 2.

GEC 98 – Ocampo 25, Villegas 25, Macoto 18, Illahi 13, Vargas 7, David 6, Yalung 4, Musni 1.

Scoring by quarters: 31-18, 48-50, 73-67, 104-98.

Open

Diamond 86 – Esdrelon 19, M. Capalad 18, Barrios 10, Talania 19, Camacho 8, Manalo 7, W. Capalad 6, Artates 4, Fernandez 2.

NCIC 81 – Lansang 23, Galarse 14, Abenoja 14, L. Deleon Guerrero 13, Ong 10, Tabora 8, Taylor 7, Malicdem 6.

Scoring by quarters: 24-16, 40-39, 63-60, 86-81.

TANK

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Masters 40 years and older (1K swim and 5K run); and Anything Goes (500m swim and 2K run).

Teams must do the longest course to qualify for the team prize. In the Anything Goes category, swimmers may use fins, life jackets, or snorkel. All participants will receive a T-shirt and breakfast compliments of Saipan Grand Hotel.

"What's great about Tank 2 Tank is that it's very inclusive and offers a category for all levels of swimmers and runners," said MTEC president Ed Cho. "Marianas Tourism Education Council and the Marianas Visitors Authority are pleased to collaborate with our athletic community once again in spreading the message that everyone can—and should—support tourism."

Swimmers looking for runners or runners looking for swimmers may contact Ed Diaz of the Marianas Visitors Authority at ediaz@mymarianas.com or 664-3210. ***(PR)***

TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES

NBA STANDINGS

EASTERN CONFERENCE

Atlantic Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Boston	19	4	.826	–
Toronto	10	15	.400	10
New York	8	15	.348	11
Philadelphia	5	18	.217	14
New Jersey	2	21	.087	17

Southeast Division

Orlando	17	6	.739	–
Atlanta	16	6	.727	1/2
Miami	11	10	.524	5
Charlotte	9	13	.409	7 1/2
Washington	7	14	.333	9

Central Division

Cleveland	16	7	.696	–
Milwaukee	11	11	.500	4 1/2
Detroit	11	12	.478	5
Indiana	8	13	.381	7
Chicago	8	14	.364	7 1/2

WESTERN CONFERENCE

Southwest Division

Dallas	17	7	.708	–
Houston	13	9	.591	3
San Antonio	11	9	.550	4
New Orleans	10	12	.455	6
Memphis	9	13	.409	7

Northwest Division

Denver	17	7	.708	–
Utah	14	9	.609	2 1/2
Oklahoma City	12	9	.571	3 1/2
Portland	14	11	.560	3 1/2
Minnesota	3	21	.125	14

Pacific Division

L.A. Lakers	18	4	.818	–
Phoenix	16	8	.667	3
Sacramento	10	12	.455	8
L.A. Clippers	9	12	.429	8 1/2
Golden State	7	16	.304	11 1/2

Saturday's Games

Utah 102, LA Lakers 94
Boston 102, Chicago 80
Denver 105, Phoenix 99
Dallas 98, New Orleans 97
Indiana 114, Washington 113
Sacramento 120, Minnesota 100
Detroit 104, Golden State 95
Milwaukee 108, Portland 101

By The Associated Press

LOCAL SCORES

PILCOWA STANDINGS

Open

Diamond	5	1
Saipan Fresh	3	2
Noni Saipan	3	2
IT&E	2	3
NCIC	0	5

Masters

University of Loyola	5	1
Ebisuya	4	1
Wushin	2	2
GEC	1	4
Cool Water	1	4

The Week in Sports

Week of the champions

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

The week belonged to the champions.

First on the list was Russian national cycling champion Alexandre Bagenov, who ruled the 3rd Annual Hell of the Marianas Century Cycle.

Bagenov completed the 100-kilometer event in three hours, three minutes and 25.88 seconds, beating compatriot Eugeniy Smarchkov (3:03:26) and Korea's Hwan Geol Lee (3:14:00).

Former Olympian and World Championship veteran Amber Halliday of Australia topped the women's division, submitting 3:13:20, which was the third best overall time in the race.

Joining Bagenov and Halliday on the champions list were Saipan Community School, Dandan Elementary School, Magnum Smashers, and Tars Olopai.

The SCS Tsunami won the boys division of the 2009 NMIFA U12 Interscholastic Football League after dethroning 2008 champion Koblerville Elementary School in the finals, 3-1.

Jehn Joyner starred in SCS' title win, scoring two goals, while Kaisei Toda was in charge on defense, making several saves. Joel Jang logged the other goal for SCS.

In the girls' U12 finals, Dandan prevailed in a shootout against Koblerville, 3-0. The regulation ended at 1-all. Sonia Maria Isaac scored for the Lady Umangs and Ayana Ongelungel tallied one goal for the Lady Tottots in regulation. In the shootout, Dandan goalie Jayleen Borja anticipated the Lady Umangs' three attempts, while Koblerville's two other hits were way off the mark.

In another team event, the Magnum Smashers topped the 2009 Traders Insurance Badminton Team Tournament, besting five other squads.

After the round-robin games and two advantage sets, the Smashers ended up with the best record in the field at 29-17, two wins ahead of runners-up Katipuneros and TNT Bombers. Erstwhile leader Air Benders (25-19) dropped to third, followed by the Sizzlers (18-26) and Star Aces (16-28).

In golf, Tars Olopai bested 11 other monthly winners to claim the RGA Club Championships.

After the champions were crowned, the remaining days of the week were all about basketball.

A new league opened, the Inaugural 2009 UBA/Miller Lite Men's Basketball League, at the Garapan Basketball Court.

Eight teams are entered in the UBA caging and four played in the opener. Advance X-Terminator and Prospects won their debuts, downing Noni Saipan, 81-77, and Trinity Estate, 98-36, respectively.

Also prevailing in their first game were Ol'Aces and Diamond, which defeated Hoopaholics, 84-69, and Cholos, 66-63, respectively.

Over at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium for the 2009 IT&E Inter-Government/Business Basketball League, Department of Community and Cultural Affairs and IT&E moved a win away from advancing to the finals.

DCCA beat Public School System in the second round of the playoffs, while IT&E won over rival Docomo. DCCA and IT&E will dispute the first finals seat tonight. Pennant champion Hyatt still has a chance for a finals berth after booting out PSS on Friday.

At the JP Centre Basketball Court, the PILCOWA caging started the second round of the regular season.

Defending champion Diamond Ali'i continued to lead the open division with its 5-1 record, while Saipan Fresh Market and Noni Saipan are tied for second with identical 3-2 marks.

University of Loyola is now leading in the masters division with its 5-1 mark, as first round top placer Ebisuya absorbed its first loss on Thursday at the hands of Wushin and dropped to a 4-1 mark.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO
DCCA's Ponce Rasa, center, challenges the defense of two PSS players during their playoff game in the government/business caging last week at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO
The main peloton cruises the back road going up to Kagman during the 3rd Annual Hell of the Marianas Century Cycle.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO
Magnum Smashers' Ferdie Arago leans back to return the ball during their game against the Air Benders in the 2009 Traders Insurance Badminton Team Tournament at the REM Centre.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO
Dandan Elementary School and Saipan Community School pose with their championship trophy after ruling the 2009 NMIFA U12 Interscholastic Football League at the Hopwood Junior High School Field.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO
IT&E's Jeff Pagarao, right, goes for a reverse layup against Noni Saipan's Glenn Aquino during their game in the second round of the regular season of the PILCOWA caging last week at the JP Centre Basketball Court.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Tars Olopai, fourth left, receives his prizes after ruling the 2009 RGA Club Championships.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO
Noni Saipan's Banjo Basila goes for a layup against Advance's Freddie Pelisamen during the opening game in the UBA caging last week at the Garapan Basketball Court.

Ramifications for Woods and his sport unfolding

-Stewart Cink was at a birthday party when he learned about Tiger Woods taking an indefinite leave from golf. A friend had the news on his cell phone, and even as the page loaded with the announcement, Cink figured a punch line was coming. **24**

Saipan Tribune
Sports

Week of the champions

First on the list was Russian national cycling champion Alexandre Bagenov, who ruled the 3rd Annual Hell of the Marianas Century Cycle. **27**

MP United clinches title in men's football

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

CNMI National player Nick Swaim scored twin goals, lifting MP United to a 2-1 title win over Inter-Godfather's in the 2009 NMIFA Men's Year-end Football Tournament yesterday at the Oleai Sports Complex field.

Swaim made his first goal on a penalty kick in the 46th minute to tie the game and drilled the second one in the 77th minute against a phalanx of Inter Godfather's defenders.

Swaim received a pass from a teammate from the right sideline and went on to attack the right corner defense of Inter Godfather's. With Inter's Yosh Gabaldon, Dale Roberts, and David Duenas chasing him, Swaim dribbled from right to left, kicked the ball, and found the back of the net.

"I knew the time was ticking, so I just went for it when I saw the opportu-

See MP UNITED on Page 26

ROSELYN B. MONROYO

MP United's Nick Swaim makes the winning goal against three Inter Godfather's defenders during their title game in the NMIFA men's league yesterday at the Oleai Sports Complex field. Inset, Tiger Lee, right, receives the championship trophy from NMIFA president Jerry Tan.

UoL, Diamond slip past foes

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

What should have been an easy finish for University of Loyola turned out to be a scary one.

UoL had to survive GEC Pawnshop's rally in the last three minutes of the game to eke out a 104-98 win in the masters division of the 2009 PILCOWA Basketball League on Saturday at the JP Centre Basketball Court.

Ed Cosino and Melvin Villarin bailed UoL out of trouble, drilling crucial baskets and collaring offensive rebounds in the closing seconds of the game.

Loyola led by double figures, 90-80, with only three minutes left in the final quarter when GEC launched a 8-0 blast to move within two, 90-88, 1: 56 remaining on the clock.

Cosino's pair of free throws doused the flame that was slowly eating up Loyola's once double-digit lead. Ed Yalung tried to match Cosino's feat, but missed both charities

See UOL on Page 26

ROSELYN B. MONROYO

University of Loyola's Melvin Villarin goes for a left-handed shot against GEC's Adonis Macoto during their first meeting in the regular season of the PILCOWA caging at the JP Centre Basketball Court.

Hyatt outlasts PSS in 2OT

ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Hyatt's Dave Sablan, center, goes for an acrobatic shot against PSS defenders during their playoff game in the government/business caging on Friday at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Lacking manpower but full of fighting spirit, Hyatt Regency Saipan pulled off a 93-86 double overtime win over Public School System in a do-or-die game in the 2009 IT&E Inter-Government/Business Basketball League on Friday at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

Hyatt showed up for the must-win match with only six players and then was down to five when gunner Dave Sablan left the game midway in the third quarter due to an injured wrist.

See HYATT on Page 26

Tank 2 Tank Swim-Run returns on Jan. 9

World War II history meets 21st century athleticism in the Northern Mariana Islands on Jan. 9 as the Tank 2 Tank swim-run event returns to the islands.

Sponsored by the Marianas Tourism Education Council to raise funds for tourism awareness, the event features a swim around an American World War II Sherman tank in the lagoon of the island of Saipan, followed by a run along the Saipan Beach Pathway to a Japanese tank.

"We're looking forward to another strong turnout of swimmers and runners in January for what has traditionally been a very popular event," said MTEC vice chair and Tank 2 Tank chair Vicky Benavente. "Along with our co-sponsor, the Marianas Visitors Authority, we welcome all participants."

The Tank 2 Tank will begin at the old AJ's Restaurant on the beach in Susupe. Registration begins at 6:30am, and the race starts at 7am. Registration is $20 for individuals and $30 for teams.

The event categories are: 8 years and under (100-meter swim and 1-kilometer run); 9-12 years old (200m swim and 2K run); 13-16 years old (500m swim and 2K run); Open for 17 years and older (1K swim and 5K run);

See TANK on Page 26

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Competitors of all ages, including these in 2006, are welcomed at the Tank 2 Tank swim-run event.